



Meet the Marne 10-Miler team, See Page 1C

## 3rd Inf Div starts Marne Torch II

Special to the Frontline

HAWR RAJAB — Operation Bethel, part of 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.'s Operation Marne Torch II, designed to reduce insurgent activity south of Baghdad and stem the flow of explosives, weapons and insurgents into Baghdad, detained insurgents, and destroyed weapons caches.

Paratroopers from Company B, 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, attached to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, detained seven suspects, two of whom were connected to the production of vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices.

While searching a building, Paratroopers discovered several hundred 20kg bags of detergent that an explosive ordnance disposal team assessed as key ingredients in the creation of homemade explosives.

An AH-64 Apache helicopter destroyed

the building with a Hellfire missile.

A second air weapons team destroyed a suspected VBIED factory that was discovered by another group of Paratroopers in the area.

While conducting a patrol on the ground, the Paratroopers found a car missing its battery and one wheel. A military working dog reacted to the trunk, which was not opened for fear of booby traps. An air strike was called in to safely dispatch the vehicle and the building in which the car was parked.

Two Apaches from 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, destroyed the vehicle and building with two Hellfire missiles. The attack helicopters destroyed four other vehicles at the site with their 30mm cannons.

Soldiers at the scene counted seven secondary explosions at the site, which indicates explosives were hidden in the vehicles and building.

## Stewart-Hunter earns Army energy award

Shalonda Rountree  
DPW Public Relations

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield were recently recognized as a top achiever in energy and water conservation. The installation was awarded the Secretary of the Army Energy and Water Management Award for fiscal year 2006 in a ceremony Aug. 8.

Secretary of the Army, the Hon. Pete

See AWARD

Page 8A

## 3rd Inf Div Family member earns Marne Society \$1000 scholarship

Special to the Frontline

The Society of the 3rd Infantry Division Scholarship Foundation, Inc. awarded a 2007 scholarship grant in the amount of \$1000 to Erin K. Willis, Fort Stewart, Georgia.

Willis, sponsored by her mother, Sgt. 1st Class Sonya K. Willis, who is currently serving in Iraq, is a freshman at Kennesaw State University where she is majoring in early childhood education.

Willis entered the university with a 4.0 grade point average. Other achievements include a proud record of community service and leadership activities as well as a strong record in sports. Her essay, entitled "My Mom, My Hero," begins "Combat

Veteran/Combat Soldier/American Warrior are not a combination of words usually associated with women, but that is what my mother is; she is a Soldier fighting against terrorism in Iraq."

Willis' essay dramatically depicts the life of a Soldier and her Family as they deal with frequent and extended separations, and she does it without a hint of complaint from either her hero or her Family.

As Willis' essay closes, the reader finds himself admiring her brave Family of six, as it meets every challenge with pride, patriotism, and a smile, and praying for her hero's safe and speedy homecoming. For more information, contact Lynn Ball, at 972-495-1704.



Sgt. 1st Class Tami Hillis

**Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, 3rd Inf. Div. commanding general, took time from his mid-tour rest and relaxation leave to visit Soldiers, and Families. During his visit he presented ten Soldiers the Purple Heart Sept. 20 at Club Stewart. See story on 8A**



Sgt. Ben Brody

**Spc. Jameel Nicholson, a crew chief with Co. B, 1/ 3 Aviation, pulls the cover off his AH-64 Apache at Baghdad International Airport Sept. 7. Nicholson is from Los Angeles. See story on Page 6A**

## DOL prepare packages of care for Soldiers deployed to Iraq

Pat Young  
Frontline Staff

Showing their support for deployed Soldiers in Iraq, the Directorate of Logistics came together to provide care packages to send overseas.

"Were sending them candies, cards, newspapers, reading material, and notes from members of DOL telling them thanks for everything their doing," said Chrisanna

Matticks, Admin Support Assistant.

The idea was conceptualized by the Director of Logistics, Royce Kennedy, according to Jim Nicksch, deputy DOL, Chief service and supply division.

After sending out an email explaining the concept, donations started flooding in from all over the DOL.

They soon had so much stuff to send, they had to organize a packing crew, and volunteers came in from all over DOL.

See CARE

Page 8A

## EML discounts available

Sgt. Tanya Polk  
Editor

As a way to applaud Soldiers' service and sacrifice while they enjoy their extended rest and relaxation leave, Army Air Force and Exchange Services and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation are providing deals in the Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield area.

For those Soldiers who elect to spend their mid-tour rest-and-relaxation leave in the Stewart-Hunter communities, an Environmental Morale Leave coupon book will be available to them.

These coupon books, provided by AAFES and the Directorate of MWR have been offered to the Stewart-Hunter Soldiers since July 23.

In addition to recreational savings, Soldiers and their Families can save at

AAFES establishments such as the Post Exchange, post movie theatre, and shop-pette. So, how can Marne Soldiers and their Families get their hands on these savings?

The Soldier's brigade combat team or battalion rear-detachment representative will have the coupon books. A Soldier must sign for the coupons, prior to receiving it. These savings are also provided to Soldiers who have already taken their Rest and relation leave.

"They are also retroactive," said Lambert. "Meaning, Soldiers who have already had their leave can have their Families pick up their coupon book from their BCT."

Informatin contained in the coupon book is found on Page 7A.

**Editor's note: Information for this article was provided by the DMWR.**



**4th BCT Dining Facility opens for business, See Page 14A**

**It's Marne Bowl time, catch the action Oct 1, live at Olivey Field in Hinesville or later on Marne TV, See Page 7A**

**Enjoy the contributions of Hispanic Americans, See story on Page B1**





# Marne 66 Sends Operation Marne Torch II off to bright start

**Brig. Gen. James L. Huggins**  
3rd Inf. Div. Deputy Commanding General - Manuever

General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker provided a candid and forthright assessment of the progress of the surge last week. The troop surge has enabled coalition forces to take back areas that were previously owned by the enemy.

The purpose of the surge is to get the security situation to a point where Iraq can achieve some political growth. The surge has done well and made a difference in the security situation. We know that that part of the strategy is working.

Task Force Marne's mission remains the same - to block accelerants into Baghdad, protect the population, and defeat sectarian violence.

lence.

Right now, Task Force Marne is conducting Operation Marne Torch II. Our 2nd Brigade Combat Team is the main effort supported by a host of units from the 3rd Division and others.

As I write, we have killed nearly a dozen of our enemy and captured over seven times that many. All the while we've cleared caches, interdicted supplies and rendered safe over 200 structures. That's a hefty amount of work in a relatively short period, requiring the absolute focus of every Soldier in the fight here.

Success leads to success in areas we hardly



imagined five months ago. We've seen a groundswell of support from "Concerned Citizens." These are the local Iraqis that, while not assigned to the government's own security forces, have taken a stand against al Qaeda.

Marne Torch II will continue and it will surely be followed by another operation, then another, all designed to keep the enemy here on the run. The capacity of the Iraqi Security Forces continues to increase and we conduct successful joint operations with them.

Success in Iraq is slow and uncertain, but progress is made every day.

Soldiers need to remain focused on fighting the enemy and continue to perform their mission independently of any political debates in the U.S. Although success in Iraq is conditions based, Soldiers and families should expect 15-month deployments. All of our unit's will serve a 15-month tour in Iraq, to include 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

Soldiers and their Families do bare a tremendous burden in times of war. In the future, when they build monuments to the Soldiers of our time, there rightly should be a representation of all those who have served on the home front on behalf of a beloved Soldier.

For now we will all stay the course. Thanks to the Soldiers who serve and the Families that support.

Rock of the Marne!

## CG addresses Soldiers, Families, veterans at vigil

**Pat Young**  
Frontline Staff

Soldiers, Family members and guest gathered together Sept. 21 in honor of National POW/MIA day at Fort Stewart's Museum at a ceremony hosted by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 789.

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, 3rd Infantry Division commanding general, took time during his mid-tour "rest and relaxation" trip in the states, with his wife, to visit the POW/MIA remembrance. He explained the importance of the occasion.

"You learn to value freedoms and cherish freedom when you fight for freedom and lead Soldiers in the fight for freedom."



Pat Young

**Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, 3rd Inf. commanding general addresses Soldiers, veterans and guest Sept. 21 at the POWMIA ceremony hosted by the VVA, Chapter 789 at the Fort Stewart Museum.**

He said while he was growing up in Hamilton Ohio, Lynch and his Family didn't have to worry about their safety and everyday life, because the Soldiers and military service members fought abroad to protect that freedom.

He said the veterans represented at the ceremony helped maintain that freedom, in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq. He noted in those conflicts many service members died, while others went missing. He said the search still continues to find those warriors. Lynch said in 1979, President Ronald Regan, understood the importance of maintaining vigilance, and declared Sept. 21 as National Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Day.

He said like the POW/MIA's from previous conflicts, there are some in Iraq too.

"I carry 104 cards with me. Those 104 cards reflect the faces and names and the Family members of the Soldiers who've given the ultimate sacrifice in combat under my command.

He produced two cards and displayed them to those in attendance. He noted those particular cards were troublesome because the Soldiers they represented were missing.

Lynch said on May 12, one of his Humvee patrols was attacked by vicious insurgents.

"Five American Soldiers were killed and three were taken away," Lynch said. "We launched a massive operation, with 4000 American Soldiers and 2000 Iraqi Soldiers searching for our fallen heroes. We only found one. We're still missing two. We're still missing Pvt. Byron Fouty, born in 1988, from California. And we're still missing Spc. Alex Jimenez, also from California."

Lynch said that Alex is married and has a loving mother and father, and Jimenez also has a Family, who they remain in contact with. He said the effort to find those missing heroes was paramount and noted the importance was shared across

America.

"I have sleepless nights, thinking about the Families of Alex Jimenez, and Byron Fouty," Lynch said. "Because they don't have closure. The Families of all our missing in actions, don't have closure. I just turn to God. I ask God to give us the capability to find our missing comrades and to grant those Families peace."

During the observance, Paul Spence, the master of ceremonies, explained the importance of POWMIA Day was to remember the courage of the missing service members as they endured captivity and with the courage of the Family members who endure the loss of their loved one, who agonize, not knowing their fate.

Every time a Soldier or service member is listed as a POW or MIA, a Family begins its own imprisonment of anxiety - waiting to learn more. As time passes those Families hope for the best, and fear the worst. Butch Hemmingway explained the intent of the observance was to let the world know, those Families will not wait alone.

"Every year we read the names of those missing in action from this area," said Butch Hemmingway, chapter president of VVA, Chapter 789. Hemmingway said they would continue until all MIA's returned or were accounted for.

During the ceremony, as each name was listed as missing, a veteran lit a candle in semblance of the vigil America stood while waiting for the service members return.

In conclusion, William Hickey, played Taps, for all the fallen comrades and missing service members.

The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command is among four military organizations committed to accounting for service members missing from the nation's wars. According to www.jpac.pacom.mil, they continue to track about 88,000 missing Americans since World War II till now.

## National POW/MIA Recognition Day, 2007 United States presidential proclamation

**George W. Bush**  
United States President

America has been blessed by the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who have answered the call to defend our country and protect liberty around the world.

On National POW/MIA Recognition Day, we honor a special group of patriots: those who have been prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action. We remain forever in their debt, and we renew our commitment to them and to their families never to rest until we have accounted for every missing service member.

To commemorate this day, the National League of Families POW/MIA flag is flown over the White House, the Capitol, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the World War II Memorial, and other locations across our country.

This flag is an enduring symbol that reflects our solemn commitment to our courageous service members who have been imprisoned while serv-

ing in conflicts around the world and to those who remain missing. America will always remember these heroes, and we underscore our pledge to achieve the fullest possible accounting for every missing member of our Armed Forces.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Friday, September 21, 2007, as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. I call upon the people of the United States to join me in honoring and remembering all former American prisoners of war and those missing in action who valiantly served our great country. I also call upon Federal, State, and local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.



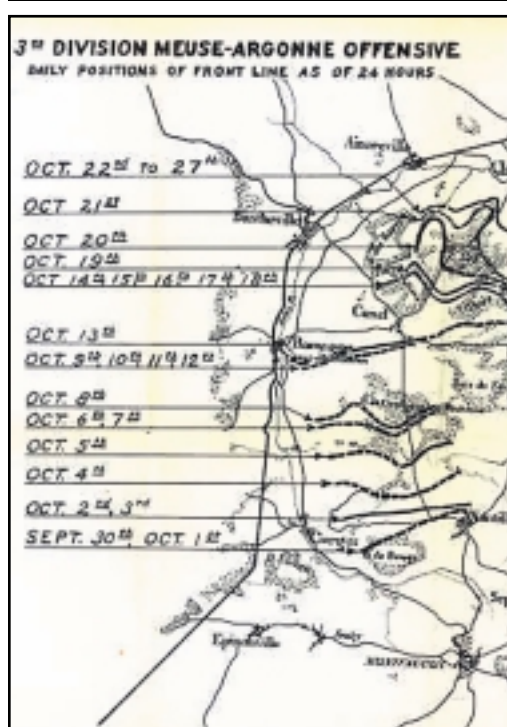
Kevin Larson

**COL (Ret) US Army Don "Doc" Ballard and Cpt. (Ret) John J. McGinty, US Marine Corps pose with a Memorial Wreath from the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Association prior to placing at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Monument, Fort Stewart Museum.**

**Ballard and McGinty are Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients for conspicuous gallantry during the Vietnam War and were among the 109 Vietnam Veterans from their unit who visited Fort Stewart last month.**

**The local Liberty Chapter 789 placed a Memorial Brick at the base of the monument for each of these distinguished veterans and for Wallace Shaw, the program chairman for the Marine unit.**

## A moment in Marne History: Meuse-Argonne



Fort Stewart Museum

On Sept. 26 1918, the last of the three great campaigns in which the 3rd Infantry Division took a most important part in 1918 began.

The Meuse-Argonne Offensive was named after the two natural features between which the American Army was stationed: On the right was the Meuse River, basically running north-south, along whose banks the 3rd Inf. Div. had already fought at of Verdun and St. Mihiel; on the left the Argonne Forest, which would become even more famous in World War II.

Thirty-five miles north of the American line was the town of Sedan, where the two main German east-west railroad lines converged. Through it travelled most of the men and supplies for the German armies in the western half of the German front.

Capturing Sedan would be a devastating blow—and the Germans knew it. But they also knew that the Meuse-Argonne territory was ideal for defense.

Along the Meuse were heights for observation and artillery fire; the Argonne Forest offered the same advantages. Halfway between them was the hill of Montfaucon, which dominated all the land about it. Where natural barriers did not exist, the Germans had created two lines of defenses—trenches, barbed wire, concrete machine-gun and artillery emplacements, all sited for mutual support and crossfire—before Montfaucon and two lines behind it. This was what the

Americans faced.

When the offensive began the 3d Division was part of the III Corps which was placed on the American right. The 3d Division, however, was not one of the three divisions on the front line but was Corps reserve. (The V Corps was in the center and the I Corps on the left.)

Of the nine divisions jumping off on Sept. 26, only five had previously seen offensive combat; four divisions were supported by artillery with which they had never trained. The result was what could have been expected.

All three corps made good progress the first day, when the Germans were surprised by the attack. Thanks to a pincer movement by the I and III Corps around Montfaucon, they had even succeeded in taking the hill on Sept. 27.

Thereafter progress stopped; the Germans brought in seven additional divisions for the defense and the inexperienced American units could not get through them.

On Sept. 29, therefore, Pershing ordered that the offensive be halted, that currently held positions be organized for defense, and preparations begun to renew battle. These preparations included the replacement of inexperienced by experienced units on the front line.

When the second phase of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive began on Oct. 4, then, the 3rd Inf. Div. was where it could have been expected to be, in the center of the action, in the center of the line, in the V Corps of the American First Army.



# ‘Bandits’ uncover cache in Saklawya



Top: Soldiers from Troop B, 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment and Iraqi Community Watch personnel uncover a weapons cache during a search of an apple orchard Sept. 15 in North Fallujah.

Right: Soldiers of Troop B, 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment scan the grounds of an apple orchard with a metal detector for a suspected weapons cache.

Below: Uncovered from the weapons cache were items commonly used to build improvised explosive devices such as: gunpowder, fertilizer, copper wire spools, a timer, blasting cap initiators, batteries and a couple 120mm artillery rounds.



**Spc. Ricardo Branch**  
*1st BCT Public Affairs*

**FALLUJAH, Iraq** –The Soldiers scour the orchard of a small Iraqi village with local community watch personnel. Moving with weapons at the ready, and armed with the latest bomb finding material, the troops are looking for weapon caches used by the enemy.

The Soldiers of ‘Bandits’ Troop B, 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment and Iraqi Community Watch personnel are patrolling along a road south of Patrol Base Texas where recent intelligence reported individuals were uncovering weapons in a nearby field.

Soldiers seem calm as they methodically search around trees and shrubs until one yells something has been found.

“We received information that people were coming in here, removing weapons from a cache and then transporting them on the back of a truck,” said Spc. Josh Sones, a cavalry scout with Troop B. “They obviously had more stuff still here, so we took a patrol to find out.”

The 21-year-old, Picayune, Miss.,

native said that upon arriving in the area, Soldiers began looking for signs that someone was in the area looking to find the cache.

“This cache wasn’t hard to find,” Sones said. “It was between two fig trees in an apple orchard. Finding something like this makes you feel like your making a difference here because you get a real good sense of accomplishment from finding it.”

Although the cache wasn’t a large one, Soldiers are grateful to confiscate anything used by insurgents.

“It wasn’t a big cache but every bit helps out here,” Sones said. “Without weapons and munitions they can’t do anything to us besides peaceful protests.”

Capt. John Owens, Troop B commander added, “My Soldiers here are more than dedicated to establishing a safe and secure environment for the people living in our area of operations. They do their job every-day and do it well. This cache find is just another example of our dedication to reestablishing security.”

Uncovered from the weapons cache were items commonly used to build improvised explosive devices such as: gunpowder, fertilizer, copper wire spools, a timer, blasting cap initiators, batteries and a couple 120mm artillery rounds.

In an effort to keep the materials out of insurgents’ hands, an explosive ordinance disposal team destroyed the cache in place.





# Marne 6 holds stand-to, gives thanks

**Pat Young**  
*Frontline Staff*

Major General Rick Lynch, the 3rd Infantry Division commanding general took mid-tour a "rest and relaxation" trip to States, and stopped in at Fort Stewart to say a few thanks.

On Sept. 20, he started his day at the 3rd Infantry Division Tree Dedication at Warrior's Walk; he awarded 10 Soldiers the Purple Heart at Club Stewart; he met with media during lunch and asked them to recognize the achievements of the Soldiers in Iraq. He also met with leaders and Soldiers of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, and wrapped up his day at Rockies with a message to Soldiers, their Families and Community members.

He started the evening at Rockies off with words of thanks and recognized three groups, the Soldiers, Families, and the supporting community.

Lynch thanked the Soldiers for helping make a

difference and noted their success.

"When the president of the united states spoke about the progress of the United States in Al Anbar, he was talking about the Soldiers of the 3rd Inf. Div."

Lynch said the 3rd Inf. Div. efforts made up the success recognized across the United States in areas like Anbar province and Ramadi.

He sited when 1st Brigade took over the battle space in Ramadi, where the attack per day reduced from daily to none, and noted Ramadi was being highlighted as a point of light in Iraq.

"We're doing that," Lynch said. It hard but we're making progress. He said regardless of what some of the media say on television, the Soldiers and Families could rest assured progress was being

made.

Lynch said sometimes people forget that on Sept. 11, 3000 Americans were killed on our soil. He said if the America wasn't there fighting terrorist in Afghanistan and Iraq now, he believed the nation would be fighting them in Hometown USA.

Lynch said while he was home on 'R-n-R', everywhere he went people were recognizing the Soldiers efforts and saying thanks. He said he would bring those thanks back to share with the Soldiers there.

The second group of people he wanted to express his gratitude too, was the Families.

"I'm a division commander in combat, I have a battle space the size of West Virginia. We're focused on the fight because I know

someone else is focused on the Families," Lynch said. He said he knew the Family support system, Family Readiness Groups, and Family members were working hard to pull it all together.

Lynch let the audience know, it would be he and his wife's 25th marriage anniversary, and thanked her for putting up with him. Lynch said he wanted to thank all the Spouses and Families for putting up with the military.

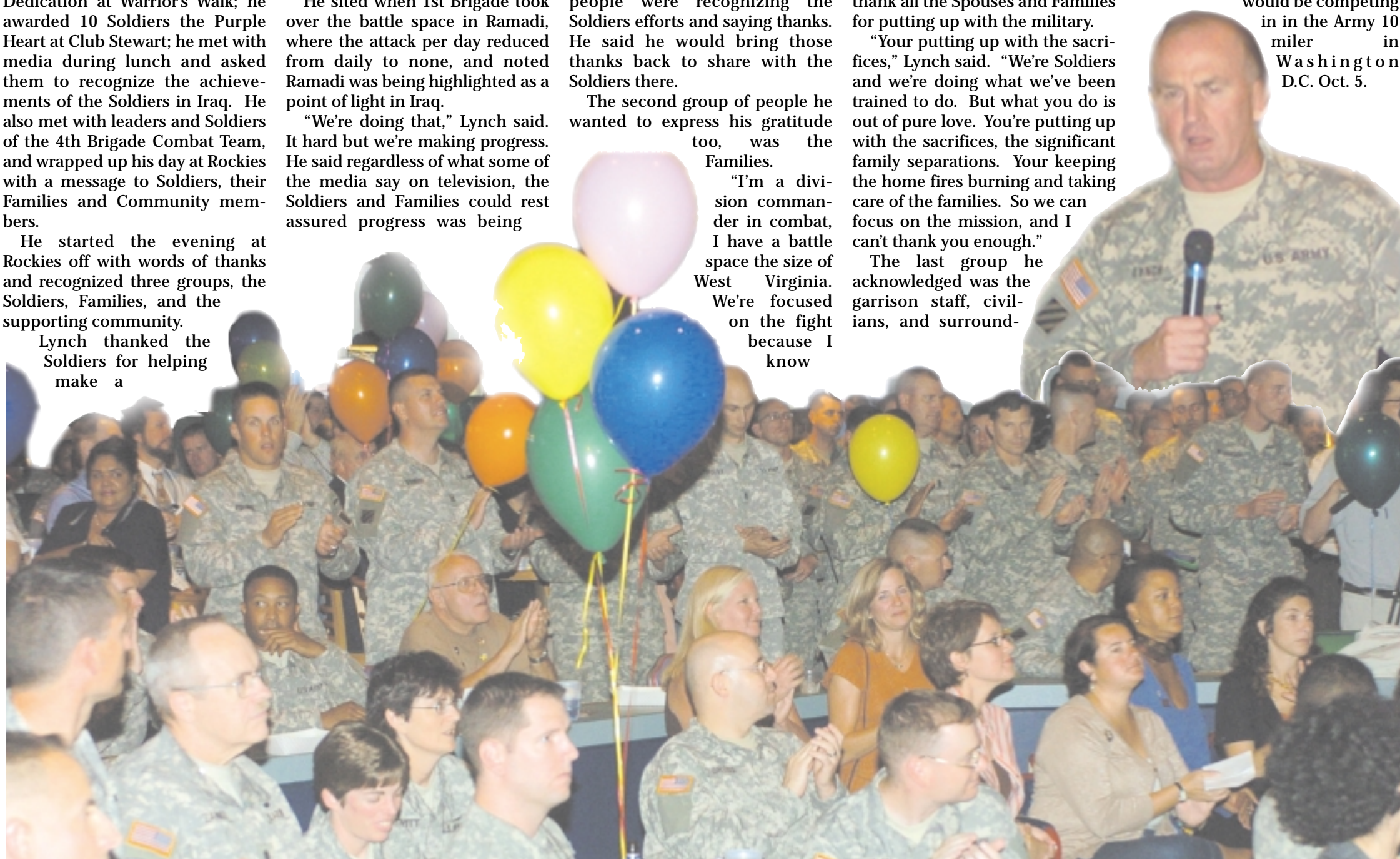
"Your putting up with the sacrifices," Lynch said. "We're Soldiers and we're doing what we've been trained to do. But what you do is out of pure love. You're putting up with the sacrifices, the significant family separations. Your keeping the home fires burning and taking care of the families. So we can focus on the mission, and I can't thank you enough."

The last group he acknowledged was the garrison staff, civilians, and surround-

ing communities who took care of the Soldiers and their Families.

He said he's proud of the Division, and proud of what it could accomplish. He said for everyone he acknowledge, he thanked them all.

Editors Note: Lynch also introduced the members of the Division, Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield team members who would be competing in in the Army 10 miler in Washington D.C. Oct. 5.



Photos and Graphic by Pat Young

Hundreds of people gathered at the commanding general's 'Stand-to' at Rocky's Sept. 20, to hear Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, 3rd Inf. Div. commanding general, and enjoy the comaraderie.

## Installation encourages safety with tree stand guidance

### Division Safety Office

Since hunting from elevated tree stands has become so popular, hunters do a considerable amount of climbing. Tree stand safety is important enough to warrant some attention. Some hunters are ill prepared for climbing in and out of trees, others simply disregard common sense rules of tree stand hunting safety. Here are some do's and don'ts to prevent tragedy when hunting from tree stands.

### Do's

- Be sure there is adequate clearance to draw and

shoot your firearm or bow. Mark your shooting area; know what is in the area you will be hunting.

- Use a strong cord or line to raise and lower equipment from the stand. You can tie one end to your belt during your climb to keep your hands free.
- Always wear a safety belt around your waist when in an elevated stand. Fasten it before you climb into your stand and wear it until you are ready to climb down.
- Let someone know where you will be and the time you plan to return.
- Always dress appropriately for the conditions and unload your firearms before raising or lowering them out of the stand.

- By following these simple safety rules, you should have a safe hunting season.

### Do not's

- Never attempt to climb while carrying your firearm or bow. Keep both hands completely free; place your firearm or bow and any other equipment away from the tree's base. A fall from a tree is bad enough. Falling on your equipment will only make matters worse.
- Never hunt from trees during thunderstorms.
- Don't be tempted to climb into any permanent stand you find. Such stands weaken with age and may collapse under your weight.

## Marne Voices Speak Out

### Do you have any pre-deployment messages?

"I will see you when I get back!"

**Pvt. Kyle Kozinski**  
F Co., 703rd BSB



"Good luck over there guys!"

**Pfc. Steven Mann**  
3/69 Armor, 4th BCT



"Come home safe!"

**Spc. Joseph Reece**  
Battery A, 1-76 FA



"Keep us in your prayers."

**Staff Sgt. Melanie Livingston**  
HHC, 4th BCT



"One team, one fight!"

**Staff Sgt. Esaa Ranmaan**  
HHC, 4th BCT



To his Family, "Stay safe while I'm away, and I'll stay safe and be back soon."

**Maj. Scott Taylor**  
3/7 Cav., 4th BCT



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# Patrol nets insurgent money handlers

Staff Sgt. Sean Riley  
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq** – Seven insurgent money handlers were captured Sept. 20 in Al-Ma'amil by military police patrolling the area.

The 2nd platoon of the 59th Military Police Company, part of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, was patrolling the area known as the brick factory, a large conglomeration of shops specializing in making bricks, based on tips from workers in the area.

The 59th MP Co., tasked as the Police Transition Team for Mada'in Qada, has been working with the 3rd HBCT since the company's arrival to Iraq in July.

Second Lt. Darrell Jones, from Allen, Texas, and 2nd platoon leader for the company, said the company regularly patrols the area because their PTT duties often take them to the Iraqi police station north of the brick factory.

"We were patrolling through that area to get to the IP station," Jones said. "We were linking up with the rest of the platoon to pick up our Iraqi police adviser."

The workers in the brick factory informed Coalition Forces weeks before about insurgents regularly "shaking them down, demanding payment or they would shut down their shops," Jones said.

The informants gave Jones and his men approximate times, days and patterns the

insurgents used during their collection rounds.

Jones said though the patrol was planned, it was really chance they were in the right place at the right time.

As a section of the platoon started their patrol south through the brick factory, Jones and the rest of his men traveled north toward them on an adjacent road. Jones said as they were approaching the outskirts of the area, the insurgents saw their patrol of vehicles on the road and sought to avoid them by driving their two vehicles through the brick factory.

"As we cut up on Route Sooners, they drove right on in to the shops," Jones said. "We cut in behind them."

They ran right in to Jones' men coming south. Due to the narrow lanes in the brick factory the cars had no way to turn around.

"They were pinched with nowhere to go," Jones said. "They gave up without a fight."

As soon as they had the insurgents cornered, Jones called in the report to the squadron's headquarters and his men cleared the cars and detained the men.

First Lt. Luke Self, a Mobile, Ala., native and 1st platoon leader for Troop B, 3-1 Cav. Regt., and his platoon were dispatched from Narwhan. Narwhan is several kilometers west of Al-Ma'amil.

"We were pulling security for the Narwhan IPs as they worked to improve one of their checkpoints," Self said. "We got the call that they had identified two vehicles and needed

assistance processing and transporting the men."

A search of the seven men and two vehicles netted an AK-47 assault rifle with several loaded magazines, three handguns, \$1,200 in U.S. currency, and more than 18 million Iraqi Dinar. Several fake identification cards were also found.

Both Jones and Self agree the capture of these insurgents will have an affect on Shiite extremist cell operations in the area.

"It could have a positive and immediate

effect," Self said. "The populace can see the affect Coalition Forces are having in the neighborhood."

Jones offered a similar estimation.

"Now the (insurgents) have to find new money handlers; someone they can trust with their money," Jones said. "It shows that we're not messing around."

The 3rd HBCT, 3rd Infantry Division, is from Fort Benning, Ga., and has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since March 2007.



Courtesy Photo

**A portion of 18 million Iraqi Dinar confiscated from seven insurgent money handlers, is arrayed on the hood of one of the two vehicles they were using in an attempt to avoid Coalition**

## Citizens help make Operation Tuwaitha Sunrise a success

Sgt. Natalie Rostek  
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq** – Moving forward hand-in-hand, Soldiers of 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment and members of a concerned citizens group conducted Operation Tuwaitha Sunrise II Sept. 19-20 in Tuwaitha Village.

The mission was the second of its kind, the first being Operation Tuwaitha Sunrise conducted earlier this month. During these missions both 3-1 Cav. Regt. Soldiers and concerned citizens conducted patrols to clear the area of improvised explosive devices and weapon caches. The area is known for its high volume of insurgent activity.

Pfc. David Menillo, Fairfield, Conn., a medic from Troop B, 3-

1 Cav. Regt. said during the first iteration, approximately 120 concerned citizens came forth to participate in the operation.

"There were so many of them out here last time," he said. "They walked up ahead of us. They found IEDs and told us about them. Then we got the explosive ordnance disposal team to blow them up."

According to Lt. Col. John Kolasheski, Loudon, Tenn., commander, 3-1 Cav. Regt., the series of missions came about when concerned citizens, tribal leaders, and National Police, expressed concerns with security on the route. The road is a major transportation route from Tuwaitha to the Jisr Diyala market place.

"They have been basically cut off from civilization," Kolasheski said. "It has been very difficult to get to the market in Jisr Diyala because they have to make their way through an al-Qaeda controlled area."

Some 3-1 Cav. Regt. Soldiers arrived at the site a day early to coordinate the event and then spent the night at a resident's house.

Kolasheski said the owner of the house, an elderly woman who had left her residence because of the al-Qaeda presence in the neighborhood, returned to her house. He said many of the residents of the village are returning to their houses after concerned citizens and 3-1 Cav. Regt. Soldiers began to secure the area.

Soldiers of 3-1 Cav. Regt. expressed their appreciation and pride for their concerned citizen brothers by telling stories of heroic accomplishments.

Spc. James Conner, Cincinnati, a medic in Company E, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment who was providing engineer sup-

port for the mission, told the story of one concerned citizen who consistently stepped up when an IED was found. "There was one guy who, when they find IEDs, goes out and disarms them," Conner said. "He didn't want any money or anything. All he wanted was a Gerber. I don't know where he got the skills to disarm the IEDs. Maybe he's an insurgent gone good."

The concerned citizens are also proud. One of the leaders of the group said through a translator, they are revolutionaries.

"We are not the kind of revolutionaries you may think," he said. "We are revolting against al-Qaeda. We are taking our communities back."

While clearing houses 3-1 Cav. Regt. Soldiers found a booby-trapped house containing one hand grenade and other explosives. Conner said many of the houses in the area have been occupied by al-Qaeda.

During the mission, concerned citizens established and manned 17 checkpoints. Kolasheski said he has high hopes for the citizens to keep the checkpoints manned and fully operational.

On the first day, 3-1 Cav. Regt. Soldiers found two 57mm projectiles and a large propane tank IED, one pressure plate activated 120 mm IED, one crush wire activated 155 mm IED, two fire extinguishers, two extinguishers and one propane tank filled with explosives, and one rocket propelled grenade.

After an overnight stay at a stronghold house on the route, Soldiers and concerned citizens continued the mission. Day two resulted in three more weapon caches in three separate houses. In total 19 propane tanks, three identification cards, one 55 gallon drum containing an oil and fuel mixture, a suicide vest, a suicide belt, two 120mm mortars, a rocket propelled grenade, two canisters of munitions, two Iraqi hand grenades with bullets as fragmentation, one set of body armor, and one acetylene tank were found in the houses.

"It was a great mission for the concerned citizens and 3-1 Cav. Regt. which significantly increased the security for Tuwaitha Village," said Maj. David Fivecoat, Delaware, Ohio, operations officer for the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

The 3-1 Cav. Regt. is assigned to the 3rd HBCT, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Benning, Ga., and has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since March 2007.



Sgt. Natalie Rostek

**Spc. John Ray, Bozeman, 3/1 Cav. pulls a two-hour guard shift with the help of a concerned citizens on the roof of the home where Soldiers slept during Operation Tuwaitha Sunrise II.**



# 3rd HBCT leaders pass on lessons

Maj. Joe Sowers  
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq** – The 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team is not scheduled to redeploy from Iraq for nine months, but leaders from the brigade are already passing along lessons learned from their first six months of combat operations. Speaking from FOB Hammer on Thursday, staff officers from 3rd HBCT conducted their second video teleconference with representatives from the Joint Multinational Readiness Center to help JMRC better prepare and resource training for units deploying to Iraq. JMRC, located in Hohenfels, Germany, provides simulated combat training exercises for brigade combat teams preparing for full-spectrum operations, according to the JMRC Web site. Units rotate through JMRC to train on major combat operations, counter-insurgency operations and security and stability operations. Leaders from the JMRC initiated

the dialogue by providing specific questions to the 3rd HBCT staff. The 3rd HBCT staff provided responses to the questions and additional “take aways” to assist the JMRC leaders as they construct training exercises. “We tried to apply our pre-deployment training and six months of combat experience so JMRC can better train deploying units,” said Maj. Dave Fivecoat, from Delaware, Ohio, the 3rd HBCT operations officer. Fivecoat emphasized that the input provided will help, but there are no “book” answers to the complex situations found in Iraq. “We found it important that units focus on the basics during pre-deployment training,” said Fivecoat. “Unit missions and locations can change as late as a brigade’s two weeks reception, staging, onward movement and integration in Kuwait. We hope this VTC will enable brigades that train at JMRC to be better prepared for the challenges of combat in Iraq.” The 3rd HBCT is from Fort Benning, Ga.



Maj. Rhett Griner, 3rd HBCT Fire Support Coordinator, discusses concerned citizen initiatives during a video teleconference with the Joint Multinational Readiness Center. (Maj.) Tim Sowers, is seated to Griner’s right.

## Leaders discuss security to decrease violence

Maj. Joe Sowers  
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq** – Representatives from 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, Iraqi police, Iraqi army and the government of the Mada’in Qada gathered Sept. 19 at FOB Hammer to discuss security issues and initiatives. The purpose of the meeting was to synchronize the efforts of all units to decrease violence and secure the population of the Mada’in Qada. Mada’in Qada Mayor Abu Bahar expressed his appreciation of the Iraqi army’s participation in the meeting. Iraqi army units are a recent addition to Iraqi Security Forces in the region.

During the meeting, unit representatives briefed their counterparts on current and future operations. Much time was dedicated to proposed improvements to ISF facilities and plans to integrate concerned citizens groups into security efforts. Concerned citizens groups within the Mada’in Qada are a new development. Leaders from 3rd HBCT estimate about 1,000 local citizens now play a role as part of concerned citizens groups. The concerned citizens are groups of Iraqi volunteers who cooperate with Coalition Forces to drive terrorists and insurgents from their own neighborhoods. “This is a huge success,” Bahar said through an interpreter. “We would like to expand this concept to other regions.” Bahar also said he has begun discussions

with local leaders to initiate additional volunteer groups in areas that currently have no such organization. Lt. Col. Ryan J. Kuhn, deputy commander of 3rd HBCT, concurred with the mayor that concerned citizens were having a positive effect. He went on to emphasize that 3rd HBCT leadership is prepared to begin discussion with any local sheik interested in establishing a group of volunteers and encouraged his ISF counterparts to actively seek out volunteer leaders. Brig. Gen. Adnon, the Chief of Iraqi police in the Qada, provided an update on a recent IP recruiting drive. He estimated that 80 percent of the 122 recruits have completed all prerequisites for admittance in the police academy with the exception of physicals.

Maj. Dave Fivecoat, 3rd HBCT operations officer, outlined the brigade’s plan to establish two Joint Security Sites. The JSS would serve as command posts with representation from all ISF elements, local government and 3rd HBCT. Kuhn said the establishment of Joint Security Sites would allow security forces to conduct coordinated security operations 24 hours a day. “There are a lot of great things going on in the Mada’in Qada due to everyone’s hard work,” Kuhn said. “We have seen a significant decrease in violence in the Mada’in Qada.” The 3rd HBCT is assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Benning, Ga., and has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since March.

## Operations on the ground helps keep CAB in the Air

Pfc. Monica K. Smith  
3rd Combat Aviation Brigade PAO

**BAGHDAD** – Fuel tankers are needed to bring fuel to the aircraft. Fork lifts load materiel onto Chinooks. Gators bring tools and other equipment to aircraft crews. On a daily basis, the ground operations of Troop E, 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, aid in the completion of squadron’s air missions. “We’re not the ultimate,” said Staff Sgt. Eisenberg, maintenance shop foreman for Troop E, 3-17 Cav. Regt. “It’s not like the mission stops without us. We just assist in the mission accomplishment. We help maintain the ground mission. We maintain the vehicles so they can do whatever they need to do to accomplish the mission.” Each line troop has its own mechanics. However, those Soldiers are aircraft mechanics. Troop E, 3-17 Cav. Regt., maintains all vehicles for the squadron performing command maintenance and conducting preventative maintenance checks and services.

“During the day, in the motor pool, there is always something to do. There is always something to keep [the Soldiers] busy,” said Eisenberg. There are three categories of work for Troop E: scheduled service where a vehicle has a known problem or a scheduled service time, unscheduled service where a fault is found and Soldiers work to fix it on the spot, and the third category focuses on maintaining generators and air conditioning units. In addition, every six months the troop checks every vehicle, generator and air conditioner to ensure they are all working, said Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Soh, 3-17 Cav. Regt.’s motor pool NCOIC. Troop E, 3-17 Cav. Regt., also has two maintenance personnel at the forward area rearmament and refueling point at Forward Operating Base Hammer to keep the fuel trucks running. The two maintenance personnel at Hammer work on 90-day rotations between Hammer and working at the Striker flight line. “As long as they have wheeled vehicles, maintenance per-

sonnel always have to be (at Hammer),” said Spc. Cory Metcalf, heavy equipment mechanic for Troop E, 3-17 Cav. Regt., also at Hammer. “The vehicles can’t be down for more than a day. They can’t be non-mission capable.” Because of their location, the Soldiers working at Hammer have limited equipment and tools to maintain their vehicles. However, they do not let their situation determine their ability to accomplish their mission. “We have less equipment and tools, but we’re doing great as far as improvising,” said Sgt. Matthew Summers, wheel mechanic for Troop E, 3-17 Cav. Regt. “We’re doing everything we can by helping out the other units here at Hammer. It’s give and take. We borrow from one another.” Whether at Hammer or back at Striker, the Soldiers understand the importance of doing their job efficiently and skillfully. “We keep the trucks running that way they can keep the birds in the air,” said Metcalf. “It’s not the same everyday. It could be the engine or a brake job or changing the oil. Every day is different. Every day is a party.”

## Mechanics motivated to make Apaches mission ready



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael Lembo, a test pilot with Co. B, 1/3rd Aviation performs maintenance checks on his AH-64 Apache.

Sgt. Ben Brody  
3rd Infantry Division Public Affairs

**BAGHDAD** – The AH-64 Apache attack helicopter is one of the most heavily used weapons platforms in Iraq, and it takes a dedicated team of mechanics and pilots to keep them in the air. The uniquely complex two-seat aircraft only accommodates pilots, so the mechanics must diagnose problems as best they can on the ground. “Mechanics who work on other helicopters call us hangar queens, because our Apaches seem like they’re always in the shop,” said Spc. Jameel Nicholson, a crew chief with Company B, 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment. “But the Apaches are so much more complicated than other birds, and they fly a lot of hours.” Among the systems unique to an Apache are advanced targeting radar modules, forward-looking infrared night vision systems, and a healthy assortment of state of the art weaponry. The electronics must be cooled with a powerful air-conditioner. “It’s like 10 Xboxes inside a refrigerator,” said Nicholson, who is from Los Angeles. Though they are maintained often, the Apache is anything but delicate. Nicholson said during his last tour in Iraq in 2005, an Apache flew back to base in pieces after withstanding damage that would have downed almost anything else. “They came in with most of the hydraulics shot away, the system processor, which is the ‘brain,’ totally gone, both engines had lost all of their oil, and the rotor was full of holes,” Nicholson recalled. “In two weeks we had it flying again, and the pilots went right out and got shot up again.” Because pilots and crew chiefs do not fly together,

their working relationship on the ground is especially close by necessity, said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael Lembo, a test pilot with Co. B. “It’s a team effort,” Lembo said. “They’re the ones turning the wrenches – our mechanics take just as much pride in their aircraft as any Black Hawk crew chief who gets to fly with their bird.” As a test pilot, Lembo is intimately involved with Apache maintenance. On a hot summer day, he can often be seen on the tarmac at Baghdad International Airport, wrench in hand. The pace of operations in Iraq takes its toll on some of the Apache’s systems, but others do better under stress, Nicholson said. “The avionics, electronics and air-conditioning systems definitely struggle with the heat,” he said. “But the engine stays in better shape when it’s used regularly, just like a car.”



# Fort Stewart - Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

**Watch the 2007 Marne Bowl Oct 1**  
The Marne Bowl will be 6 p.m., Oct. 1 at Olvey Field in Hinesville. Come watch the Charging Bulls of Company C, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry take on The Maintainers of Co. F, 703rd Brigade Support Battalion.  
The two teams compete to see who will become the 3rd Infantry Division Flag-Football Champions for the 2007-2008 season. Cheer them on to Victory! For more information, call 767-8238.

**Get educated with Marriage 101**  
The Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Ministry Team sponsors a Marriage 101 Seminar for singles, engaged couples, newlyweds, and seasoned partners. Explore your personal strengths and weaknesses and discover secrets to more rewarding and satisfying relationships. The seminar is held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every month at Victory Chapel. The event has a catered lunch and materials are provided. For more information or to make reservations, call the Family Life Chaplain at 767-7028.

**Civilian fitness program opens**  
Enroll now for the Fall '07 session of the Civilian Employee Fitness Program. The program runs now through Dec. 13. To learn more about the program visit online at [www.stewartmwr.com/sports/newman.htm](http://www.stewartmwr.com/sports/newman.htm). For additional information or to learn about specific requirements, call 767-9336.

**Bazaar vendors needed**  
The OSC Fundraising Committee is now accepting applications for vendors to participate in the Holiday Bazaar 2007. The bazaar will take place 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Nov. 3 at Club Stewart. For vendor applications, please contact Brenda at 448-2028 or by e-mail at [solomonmbjo@coastalnow.net](mailto:solomonmbjo@coastalnow.net). For additional information, visit online at [www.thesteelmagnolia.org](http://www.thesteelmagnolia.org).

**Security guard force change**  
Wackenhut Security International will soon assume the duties as the Installation Access Control guard force.  
WSI is the United States government's largest contractor for professional security services, with 8,000 employees protecting key sites in the U.S. and abroad. They are currently transitioning with AKAL Incorporated and will be in full operational compliance by Oct. 9. Although the contractor for security forces is changed, the local employee base and management will remain in place. This will ensure a smooth transition

with no loss of service.  
**YMCA pool open to military Oct. 1**  
The YMCA indoor pool located at 201 Mary Lou Drive, Hinesville, GA will be open to military members, Family members and retirees due to the closure of Newman Fitness Center indoor Pool for repairs. Those who wish to do group swimming must submit a memo for approval. The operating hours are 5:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4:30 to 9 p.m. Monday-Friday; Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 1-6 p.m. For more information, call 368-9622.

**Stewart**  
**FSSG holds membership drive**  
Are you a foreign born spouse and interested in networking with other spouses from your cultural background?  
The Foreign-born Spouse Support Group invites you to meet people who are familiar with the area and with Army life and have the opportunity to network and participate in activities such as games and coffee club. Contact ACS at 767-5058/5059 for dates, times and to sign up.

**Visit newly redone OSC gift shop**  
Come and check out the newly redone OSC gift shop. Shop of the Marne is open from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Tuesday, Thursday and the first Saturday of the month.  
The Shop of the Marne is a not-for-profit gift shop run by the Fort Stewart Officers' Spouses' Club. If you are interested in volunteering at the shop please call 767-9268.

**Learn habits of effective Families**  
Participants in this workshop, will learn how to anticipate all phases of deployment, abandon unhealthy behaviors, build Family traditions, unity and a "nurturing Family culture", plus learn practical skills for dealing with financial issues. The class is 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., today at Club Stewart. Space is limited. For more information, call 767-1257/1297.

**Relocation program offered at ACS**  
The Army Community Service relocation program will offer sponsorship training, to the first fifty people the call and sign up. Each unit should have a primary and alternate point of contact for their unit sponsorship program. The training is 2-4 p.m., Oct. 25 in building 87. Sponsorship Training is also offered in units for ten or more people. For more information call Linda McKnight the

relocation program manager at 767-5058.

**Hunter**  
**Walk to Iraq and Back**  
Join Families of deployed service members in a display of patriotism at Hunter Army Airfield Fitness Center at 9 a.m., Sat., Oct. 27, for a patriotic ceremony, including remarks from guest speaker Pete Liakakis, chairman of Chatham County Commissioners. A Halloween costume contest follows, and a two-mile walk behind a Marne Division Color Guard and a local high school band. Costumes prizes will be awarded in the following age groups: 0-6; 7-12; 13-19; 20 and up. For additional information, contact Deb Doser, at 271-9915.

**Spouses' Club plans vacation**  
Learn how to plan the vacation of a lifetime at the HSC luncheon, scheduled 11 a.m., Oct. 9, at Hunter Club. Lunch is \$10, except for special guest spouses from the 1/75th Ranger Battalion and 3/160th Soar, who get \$1 off.  
If interested in attending, RSVP Stephanie Pettit by Oct. 5 at 459-0411.

**See Jazz Festival, Earn Scholarship**  
Don't miss the Savannah Jazz Festival. Performances are today through Sunday, Sept. 30 at Forsyth Park in Savannah. Sunday's final concert is for children. Go to [www.Savannahjazzfestival.org](http://www.Savannahjazzfestival.org) for times and final details or call 912-661-2419.  
Embry Riddle will present a \$1000 scholarship Friday, the fest's military appreciation night.  
The application is available Friday Night at the Festival in Forsythe Park. Look for the tent with the Embry-Riddle University Representatives. The winner will be announced at the end of Friday Evening's concert. Call 912-661-2419 for information or go to [www.coastal-jazz.org](http://www.coastal-jazz.org) or [www.coastal-jazz.org](http://www.coastal-jazz.org).

**Religion education classes**  
Classes are available for children, ages 3 and older, including adult Bible study and RCIA classes, hld Sundays, 9:45 - 10:30 am in the Religious Ed Building.  
Call Pam Perez at 315-5440 for additional information. Protestant Women of the Chapel will meeting Thursdays, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The group will read "Power of a positive woman.." For additional information, call Valarie Moore, 920, 8519.

*A look inside the EML coupon book*

**MWR coupons include:**

- A one day bay pass for Libby or Hunter Auto Craft
- \$2 off the rifle or pistol range fee at Stewart and Hunter
- One free play at Cypress Creek Adventure Golf
- \$10 off daily rental of fishing or ski boat at Stewart and Hunter;
- free grill rental with paid bounce house rental
- A free pass to Corkan Family Skating
- Rent a camper for three days, get additional two days free
- \$5 off daily campsite fee at Stewart and Hunter
- Free boat ramp launch at Lotts Island
- One free regular smoothie at Newman Fitness Center's new juice bar, Smooth Operator
- Bowl one game, get one free at Marne Lanes and Hunter Lanes
- Half-price on one 18-hole round of golf at both Stewart and Hunter

**AAFES discounts include:**

- \$10 off prescription glasses; two free movie passes
- \$10 off any purchase of outdoor living furniture or equipment totaling \$100 or more
- 10 percent off any one item; \$1 off food coupon
- \$2 off laundry, dry cleaning or alterations
- \$4 off 200-unit phone card
- \$1 off a haircut or \$5 off shampoo, style and set
- \$2 off oil, lube and filter changed or four-wheel tire balance and rotation
- \$1 off any AAFES brand health care item
- \$10 off any exchange credit program purchase of \$100 or more
- \$10 off any two or three piece Army dress uniform
- and much more

For more information call MWR at 767-5117.

**Tybee Island Pirate Fest**  
Join the Pirate Fest Oct. 5-6 on Tybee Island, GA. The trip departs Fort Stewart and Hunter Leisure Activities centers. For departure times and more information, call 767-2841.



**Stewart**  
**Be apart of Neighborhood Huddles**  
Come talk to us. GMH will be there to listen to your ideas, issues or concerns. Help make your neighborhood a great place to live! Huddles will meet at Marne Terrace on October 2, Marne Homes, October 9, Marne Woods October 16, Bryan Village North October 23 and will be held from 10:30 p.m.-11 p.m.  
**Candy Corn Count**  
Make your best guess! Stop by your nearest community center to try and guess how many pieces of candy corn are in the jar. Closest guess wins an ultimate prize bucket! Participants canvisit the Liberty Woods and Southern Oaks community Centers at their convenience between Oct. 4-11.  
**Home Decorating Contest**  
Get in the spirit by decorating your home for Halloween! There will be one grand prize winner, a 1st runner up and a 2nd runner up selected. Homes will be judged on Oct. 23.  
**Halloween Havoc**  
Join GMH for a night of fun filled with: music and dancing, cake walks, face painting, Halloween costume contest,

kids Halloween craft making, sack racing and more!  
Also, bring your already carved or painted pumpkins and enter them in a pumpkin carving or painting contest. Don't forget to wear your Halloween costumes! Event will be held from 6 p.m.- 8 p.m. on Oct. 26 at the Southern Oaks Community Center.  
**Post-Wide Yard Sale**  
MWR is hosting a post-wide yard sale at Club Stewart from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. on October 27. Housing residents are allowed to sell at their homes as well.  
Keep in mind; more people are likely to stop at Club Stewart where there will be many vendors in a central location. If you would like to sell your items at Club Stewart GMH will pay the \$5 space fee for you! If you are interested, contact Amber at 210-3250 no later than October 19th.  
**Hunter**  
**Candy Corn Count**  
Make your best guess! Stop by your nearest community center to try and guess how many pieces of candy corn are in the jar. Closest guess wins an ultimate prize bucket! Participants can visit both GMH community centers at

their convenience between Oct. 3-10.  
**Toddler Time**  
Bring your little ones for a play date with others and to enjoy some toddler friendly toys.  
Event takes place at the Ken Heller Jr. Center (New Gannam), from 10:30 - 11:30 p.m., Oct. 12.  
**Kids Craft Corner**  
Join GMH for a fun Halloween craft from 4:30-5:30 p.m. on Oct. 18 at both GMH community centers.  
**Decorating Contest**  
Get in the spirit by decorating your home for Halloween! There will be one grand prize winner, a 1st runner up and a 2nd runner up selected. Homes will be judged on Oct. 23.  
**Neighborhood Huddles**  
Be an active part of your community by attending your huddle and sharing ideas, issues or concerns with GMH. Help make your neighborhood a great place to live!  
Huddles will meet from 10:30-11 a.m. at the New Savannah Community Center on Oct. 3, and the New Callaway Community Center on Oct. 10.



# 10 Dog face Soldiers receive Purple Heart

Sgt. 1st Class Tami Hillis  
4th BCT Public Affairs

Ten 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers were honored Sept. 20 at Club Stewart, for sacrificing in the name of something higher than themselves.

“I am so enormously proud of these young Soldiers,” said Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, 3rd Int. Div. commander. “I want all Americans to know that for everything we are in this country and for everything we have, we need to look at citizens like these young men here before us today as Americans who are willing to stand up and serve their country by answering the call to go in harm’s way and serve.”

Soldiers who received the prestigious award were:

**Capt. Donald E. Smith II**, while assigned to the 1st Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Inf. Div. Mobile Iraqi Training Team. On Jan. 19, while serving as an advisor to the Iraqi army in combat outpost in Heider, Iraq, an improvised explosive device was detonated near Smith’s office.

**Capt. John A. Meixel**, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd ID. On July 17, Meixel was conducting a zone

reconnaissance with his scout platoon in Khadra, Iraq, when an IED exploded.

**Sgt. 1st Class Anthony D. Arthur**, Troop A, 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry, 1st BCT, 3rd ID. On March 4, Arthur and his Soldiers were establishing a blocking position in support of Operation Northern Forge near Ramadi, Iraq, when an IED was detonated.

**Sgt. 1st Class Barton W. Owen Jr.**, Company D, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT. On June 26, Owen was on Forward Operating Base Falcon when a mortar round landed just five feet from him. A second Purple Heart is still processing for Owen when an IED blast on June 18 caused Owen’s tank to roll over, knocking him unconscious. Three days later Owen was back with his platoon.

“Sergeant Owen, they told me all about you before I came back on mid-tour leave. I don’t think anyone wants to be around you,” Lynch joked. “You’re in a tank, it rolls over. You’re on a FOB, a mortar round lands five feet from you. You might be one of those guys we just want to keep back here on rear-D (detachment). Thanks for your service.”

**Sgt. Todd P. McKenna**, Troop A, 5-7 Cav. On March 15, McKenna was in the process of establishing a traffic control point for a supply route near Ramadi when an IED was set off by the enemy. McKenna, who’s a cavalry scout and has been in the Army 4 \_ years, is scheduled to return to Iraq toward the end of the year.

tion.

“This story is a story that will be told a thousand times. These magnificent Soldiers, regardless of their MOS (military occupational specialties) do what’s necessary to be done. You’re a cook, right,” Lynch asked Mitchell.

“What the hell were you doing on a dismounted patrol?” Lynch said jokingly, emphasizing the fact that Mitchell was doing a more dangerous job than his MOS usually required at the time that he received his injuries.

**Spc. Tony E. Perry**, HHC, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor. On Aug. 9, Perry and his unit were conducting a movement from FOB Brassfield-Mora to FOB Speicher when an IED was detonated.

**Pfc. Elijah C. Gregg**, Company B, 1-64th AR. On June 22, Gregg was pulling security for Camp Liberty when he was hit in the leg by a bullet from a sniper.

“These Soldiers do what we were trained to do. We all enlisted, none of us were drafted. We came into the Army to defend our freedom and our way of life,” said Lynch. “I’ve been doing what I do for the last 30 years. I do it for my children and their children. That’s why I do it. I want them to have the same freedoms that I enjoyed growing up.”

**Pfc. William C. Wilson**, Company C, 1-30th IN. On July 14, Wilson was wounded by an IED in Arab Jabour, Iraq.

“It’s an amazing thing and magnify this by thousands,” Lynch emphasized. “These few great Soldiers who have been wounded, who have paid a sacrifice for the good of our freedom, are staying in the Army because it’s the right thing to do.”



Sgt. 1st Class Tami Hillis

Ten Soldiers were recognized at Sept. 20 at Club Stewart for wounds received while serving with the 3rd Infantry Division in Iraq.

### The Army wants your suggestion.

The world keeps moving. Ideas help us stay ahead. Start with an idea, finish a winner. Send your ideas to [Armysuggestions.army.mil](mailto:Armysuggestions.army.mil). For more information, contact Joyce Bailey at [BaileyJM2@stewart.army.mil](mailto:BaileyJM2@stewart.army.mil) or 767-6300.



Pat Young

Front to back: Annette Conyers, Joyce McIntyre, Connie Doolittle, Annette Conyer, and Dorothy Thompson and Machel Moore put items

### CARE

They brough more items to be shipped, packing material, and their gratitude to the Soldiers. They included in the boxes messages in their care packages from from home.

“We put little notes in each of the packets to say thanks to the Soldiers for everything their doing, “ Matticks said.

Many of the volunteers have Family and Friends deployed to Iraq. Joyce

From Page 1A

McIntyre, supply tech, who has a cousin deployed to Iraq, with a niece deploying in December; Robert Lumpkin, warehouse forklift operator, who have church members there; and Machel Moore, supply clerk who has a nephew there.

Niksch said DOL may expand the program and invite others to donate with a second delivery sometime before Christmas.

## AWARDFrom Page 1A

These awards honor individuals and organizations for outstanding achievements in: conservation and efficient use of energy and water, use of renewable energy sources, improving the nation’s energy security and reliability and energy-efficient mobility by the federal government.

Stewart-Hunter was one of only seven selected to receive this award in the Small Group category.

Through the groups’ efforts, the Installation reduced its total facility energy consumption which resulted in an energy savings of 27 percent.

The group was also recognized for the implementation of several energy efficient projects. These included several lighting retrofit projects which replaced inefficient lighting systems with the latest energy efficient technology; an energy management control system; and a water conservation project which installed water efficient fixtures, flush-meters, faucet restrictors and waterless urinals.

The installation also modernized the central energy plant. Improvements include

the complete upgrade of the high temperature water distribution piping and the replacement of the cooling towers, backup boilers, absorption chillers, and the wood fired equipment.

Due to the group’s collective efforts, the Installation has met Energy Policy Act 2005 energy goals, improved deteriorating infrastructures, and enhanced the quality of life for our soldiers, civilians and Family members.

This award truly demonstrates how Stewart-Hunter and the Army are working aggressively to ensure that Soldiers have the resources they need to accomplish their mission while maintaining a healthy environment in which to live, reflecting the “sustainability” effort. These energy conservation measures have created substantial savings that are able to fund additional programs that enhance the quality of life of the Soldiers, family members and mission readiness. Through improving effectiveness of our force and preserving resources, the Army is setting the example for the rest of the nation.



courtesy photo

Geoffrey Prosch, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Installations and Environment presented Stewart-Hunter with the Small Group Award-Energy Efficiency/Energy Management in a ceremony Aug. 8. On hand to accept the award were Paul M. Andreshak, Stewart-Hunter deputy garrison commander; and DPW’s Fred Pierre-Louis, environmental engineer; Denise D. Kelley, utilities coordinator; and Willie M. Barnett, contract specialist.



# Education Matters

## College level exams available

College Level Examination Program and DANTES Subject Standardized Tests are available on post. Please call Columbia College at 877-3406 for more information and testing dates. The exams are free for military personnel and for non-military examinees, CLEP tests are \$85, and DSSTs are \$90.

## Free college course offered

Columbia College Spouse's Opportunity Scholarship provides a tuition waiver for an initial classroom course with Columbia College at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center for spouses of military personnel enrolled in their school. This is a value of \$450, which is the cost of their three credit-hour classroom courses. The program is an incentive for eligible students to embark on a degree program, while completing the financial aid process (i.e. FAFSA) and securing ongoing financial support. Please call 877-3406 at Stewart or 352-8635 at Hunter for more information.

## Attend Green-to-Gold briefing

The Green to Gold briefing is held the first and third Thursday of every month at 2 p.m. at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center and at 2 p.m., the second and fourth Thursday at the Hunter Education Center.

## Georgia HOPE Grant offered

The HOPE Grant is money given by the state of Georgia to students with financial need to attend vocational/trade schools. The grant covers certificate and diploma programs. Any Soldier or Family member of a Soldier who is stationed in Georgia may be eligible. If you are interested in attending a Georgia vocational or trade school, inquire with your school's financial advisor or visit the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center to speak with a counselor.

## \$4500 tuition available for Soldiers

All active duty members have \$4500 per fiscal year for education. This entitlement is separate from the Montgomery GI Bill benefits available from the Veteran's Administration. Details are available at 1:30 p.m., Monday – Friday, during a one-hour brief at the education center, room 223. The ***www.goarmyed.com*** Web site provides 24-hours, 7-days-a-week virtual access for Soldiers. Our education counselors are available to assist in educational goal setting and advising.

## Central Texas College offers scholarships

The Central Texas College Foundation office has more than 100 scholarships available to students. These scholarships are not just for students at the central campus, but many scholarships are available for students attending one of Central Texas College's World Wide Campus. Filling out a single application gives students the opportunity to be considered for all of their available scholarships. For more information, call 767-8331.

## College term dates announced

*Central Texas College*, now - Oct. 6, 767-2070 at Stewart, 315-4090 at Hunter. *Columbia College*, now - Oct. 6, 767-5336 at Stewart, 352-8635 at Hunter. *Embry Riddle*, now - Oct. 7, 767-3930 at Stewart, 352-5252 at Hunter. *Savannah Tech*, Sept. 28 - Dec. 13, 408-2430 at Stewart. *Webster University*, now - Oct. 11.

## Savannah Tech offers child care

Child care is available at the Hinesville Airport Road Hinesville campus. Contact Natasha Brown at 408-3024 ext 6026 for more details.

## Take advantage of education programs

Soldiers and civilians can take advantage of the HOPE grant and tuition with opportunities available at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center and local institutions. Available programs include Web site Technician Certificate in only two courses; Child Care Manager Certificate with only five courses; and Medical Transcription Certificate with only eight courses. For more information call 408-2430.

## ESL classes taught

English as a Second Language classes are available. The beginning courses are offered 8-10 a.m., Mondays and Wednesdays. Intermediate courses are offered 10 a.m. to noon, Mondays and Wednesdays, and 8 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and Thursdays, building 100, room 227. Call 368-7322 for more information.

## Injured Soldier, spouse scholarships offered

Certain schools are offering scholarships and reduced tuition for severely injured Soldiers and their Family members. For more information, send an e-mail to: *Scholarships @voled.doded.mil*.

## Get free test prep software

The Victory Sports Group of NFL football players is sponsoring SAT and ACT test prep software for military Families. There is a small shipping charge for delivery. For more information, e-mail eKnowledge Support at *support@eKnowledge.com*, or call 951-256-4076.

## Use the learning center

The learning center has 55 computers with Internet access. Complete your homework or research for your classes and access the Army's basic skills automated program. The learning center is open seven-days-a-week (closed on federal holidays). The hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.

## Learn about GED, enrichment courses

GED preparation courses, offered in partnership with the Liberty County Adult Education Program, are held at the education center on Fort Stewart.

These courses prepare you to take the GED or refresh your skills in basic education subjects. Courses are free of charge on a space available basis. The hours of operation are 8 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m., Monday through Thursday; and 6-9 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday in rooms 225 - 228. For more information, call 368-7322 or 368-7329.

## Reduced online tuition available

Soldiers enrolled in Webster's Graduate classes will receive a reduced rate, while deployed. Contact Marsha Sands at *sands@webster.edu*, or 354-0033/DSN: 315-5906 for additional information.

## Embry-Riddle Tuition to be awarded

To show their support and appreciation of our nation's military, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Savannah Campus is sponsoring an opportunity for one student to receive tuition assistance in the amount of \$1,000. This award will be presented Friday, during the Savannah Jazz Festival's "Military Appreciation Night."

## Criteria for tuition assistance announced

Must be a current student in, or an entering adult student into an Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Worldwide academic course of study.

- TA recipient must be active duty or reserve, Air National Guard, Coast Guard, or an active duty military spouse, or veteran.

- Must fill out Interest Form available today and Friday during the Festival.

- Must be present at the time of the drawing.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, the world's largest, fully accredited university specializing in aviation and aerospace, offers more than 30 degree programs in its colleges of Arts and Sciences, Aviation, Business, and Engineering.

For more information about Embry-Riddle, call the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center at 767-8331.

# Recycling a Success at Freedom Walk

**Shalonda Rountree**  
DPW Public Relations

Numerous empty containers of Powerade and Gatorade, plastic water bottles, cardboard pizza boxes, and empty aluminum cans were just some of the items collected and recycled during this year's Freedom Walk. These recyclable items could have potentially ended up in a landfill, but instead they were placed in the various blue recycling containers that were placed around the perimeter of Cottrell Field along the Walk's path.

DPW's Waste Management Section and MWR partnered during this commemorative event to ensure that the hundreds of bottles of water being distributed to the participants

and other recyclable materials were disposed of appropriately. "We are extremely pleased with the enormous amount of recyclables collected during this event and look forward to opportunities such as this to raise recycling awareness and for recycling collection," said Ron King, Landfill/Recycling Compliance Specialist.

This year's local Freedom Walk, which drew over 600 men, women, and children to honor the Soldiers, veterans, and emergency workers who have made the ultimate sacrifice and put their lives on the line daily; also afforded the walk participants an opportunity to support the Installation by sustaining its resources for future generations of Soldiers and first responders—through recycling.



Sharon Bass

**More than 600 Soldiers, Department of Defense civilians, emergency responders, and community members gathered together Sept. 9 at Fort Stewart to remember 9/11 and honor the heroes in the Global War on Terrorism.**



# Equal opportunity continues to flourish

Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky  
2nd BCT PAO

FOB KALSU – The purpose of the Army's Equal Opportunity program is to make sure that each person be evaluated on individual merit, fitness, capability, and potential - regardless of race, color, gender, national origin, or religion.

Thus, it is only fitting that the military, defending these principles, also practices the same principle for which it fights.

Ensuring the program's success in the 2nd Brigade Combat Team is Sgt. First Class Montoya Jones, 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division equal opportunity advisor.

"As an Equal Opportunity advisor I am an agent for cultural change and I act as the eyes and ears for the commander," Jones said.

According to DA Pamphlet 350-20, Unit Equal Opportunity Training Guide, the Army's Equal Opportunity Program was born in response to violent confrontations that erupted between racial and ethnic groups at posts and installations in the

Continental United States (CONUS) and at overseas locations in 1969 and 1970.

Although President Harry Truman took the first steps toward this goal in 1948 with desegregating the Army, not a lot of progress was made to eliminate discrimination. However, in 1970 after the riots, the Army began a longterm program with clear goals and objectives.

As eyes and ears of command, Jones monitors the unit climate and informs the brigade commander, Col. Terry Ferrell, of issues that violate the EO policy. Jones also conducts training to educate Soldiers of the program. Jones said training is important because it educates and trains Soldiers, allowing leaders to handle EO issues and concerns at the lowest level.

The training is conducted quarterly at the company, squadron, and battalion levels by the Equal Opportunity Leaders.

Although the Army tries to eliminate prejudices and unify Soldiers through the Army values, the values and attitudes gained before enlistment or commissioning do not automatically dissolve or change when

someone puts on an Army uniform, according to the Unit Equal Opportunity Training Guide.

To help Soldiers gain some understanding of other cultures, Jones said another part of her job is planning and conducting ethnic observances/special commemorations which are designed to enhance cross-cultural awareness among all Soldiers, civilian employees and their families.

"Observances recognize the achievements and contributions made by members of specific racial, ethnic, or gender groups in our society," she said. "The observances promote understanding, teamwork, harmony, pride and esprit [de corps] among all groups, not just within the specific group being honored."

The Army, as a representation of America, contains many individuals with diverse backgrounds.

Learning about these backgrounds and celebrating and honoring them helps build teamwork among Soldiers. without teamwork, mission effectiveness and combat readiness is jeopardized.

Currently, Jones said she is working on the upcoming National Hispanic American Heritage Month, which is from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

Other observations celebrated by the Army are Black History Month (Feb.), Women's History Month (March), Asian Pacific Heritage Month (May), Native American Indian Heritage Month (Nov), Martin Luther King Jr's birthday (third Monday in January, Women's Equality Day (Aug. 26) and Day of Remembrance for Holocaust Victims (April/May).

Jones, who has been an equal opportunity advisor since June 2006, also plans other types of programs that teach Soldiers about respecting others. One such program is the Army Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program.

No matter what type of program Jones is coordinating, Jones said knowing that it helps promote respect among Soldiers is the most rewarding aspect of the job.

"The best part of my job is ensuring that each person is treated fairly and with dignity and respect."

# Perplexing puzzles keep the brain alert, active

Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky  
2nd BCT PAO

FOB KALSU – A popular method of relaxing while on down time is found in the game Sudoku.

A Japanese puzzle game that came to worldwide prominence in 2005, is one of the latest brain exercising games Soldiers are testing their mental combat skills against.

"It keeps me sharp," said Chap. (Maj.) Jay Hearn, 2nd Brigade Combat Team brigade chaplain. "At my age keeping your mind alert is important"

The object of Sudoku, which is short for “suji wa dokushin ni kagiru” (only single numbers allowed), is to fill an 81-square grid, divided into nine 3x3 boxes. The goal is to avoid repeating any number in either a column, row or 3x3 grid.

Despite dealing with numbers, the game is one of pure logic - no math is involved.

The game first appeared in the May 1979 magazine edition of Dell Pencil Puzzles and Word Games under the name "Number Place," according to Sudoku: Easy to Hard Vol. 3. While it may not have caught much attention in the United States, an editor for Japanese puzzle game magazine saw it and imported it to Japan, renaming it Sudoku.

It would remain on the island for several years, but in 1997 another islander, a retired New Zealand judge, saw a book of Sudoku puzzles and copied the idea. After seven years, he eventually convinced The Times in London to print the puzzle, which it continues to do daily.

Other publications began to follow suit, including military-based newspapers, such as the Stars and Stripes and

Dog Face Daily, a daily newsletter produced by the 3rd Infantry Division Public Affairs Office.

Books full of puzzles are also available to give Soldiers craving more than one helping of Sudoku per day.

"It doesn't take any batteries, it doesn't take any outside equipment. Everybody can do it if you understand it," Hearn said of the popularity of the books. "You don't have to know big complex words like you do in crossword puzzles. You can do it alone, in a noisy environment. As long as you don't need to be concentrating on anything else you can do it."

Of course, it wasn't always so popular with Hearn.

"Before you start playing it is mind boggling. You don't understand it, it seems like it is very complicated and complex. But if you have somebody walk you through at the very beginning, show you how it works and how to solve the puzzle it becomes less intimidating," he said.

Likewise, Spc. Matthew Beason, a topographical analyst with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, also had some friendly help to show him the ropes.

"I saw someone else playing it and asked them about it," Beason said.

Beason, a lifelong fan of word search puzzles, at first didn't like the new puzzle. However, the challenge of the game eventually drew him in.

"I used to be into word search puzzles but they got old. They (Sudoku puzzles) are more challenging than word search puzzles."



Photos by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky



Chap. (Maj.) Jay Hearn, 2nd Brigade Combat Team chaplain, shows his technique for solving Sudoku puzzles. Hearn writes potential choices in the margins and crosses them out as numbers are eliminated.

# FOB Q-West Idol has a new singing star

Pfc. Gaelen Lowers  
3rd Sustainment Brigade

Forward operating base Q-West – QAIYARA, Iraq – The desert was alive with the sounds of music thanks to Q-West Idol, a singing competition at Forward Operating Base Q-West.

Almost 20 contestants entered to sing their favorite songs to see if they had what it took to become the next Q-West Idol.

Contestants sang karaoke style or a cappella (without musical accompaniment) to the song of their choosing. One Soldier even played his guitar while he sang, but the judging was solely on their singing ability and talents.

The contest lasted for five weeks, eliminating contestants and narrowing down the competitors until only three were left for the finals Sept. 2.

Speaking about the finalist, Col. Darrell K. Williams, commander of the 3rd Sustainment Brigade and FOB Q-West, said, “This is my first time to the competition, and I’m am in awe right now.”

Sgt. Antoinette Harper, from Pine Bluff, Ark. and of the 148th Quarter master Company in charge of Force Protection on FOB Q-West, was one of the finalists. She sang “Love” by Keisha Cole and the classic “Respect” by Aretha Franklin.

“It surprises me of the people that can sing,” said Sgt. Edward Diaz, ammunition non-commissioned officer at FOB Q-West, “They come out here and blow me away. It’s a real morale booster”

Sgt. Zoraya Brown, from Atlanta, Ga. 87th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, sang “Killing Me Softly” by the Fugees and “The Truth” by India Arie.

“It looks like she is having fun while she is singing,” said Williams. “She’s [Brown] my favorite. She brought the performance,” said Pfc. Shaketa Rogers, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Bde. chaplain’s assistant. “She really feels the songs that she is singing.”

In the end there could only be one winner and that was Sgt. Jason Mead of Sierra Vista, Ariz. 582nd Field Artillery sang “Paint Me a Birmingham” by Tracy Lawrence and “Cross My Heart” by George Strait.

“He has the best voice,” said Capt. Rhea Hutchins, the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, STB, 3rd Sustainment Bde. commander. “If the voice catches me then that’s it.”

“He is one of the purest vocalists I have ever had the pleasure of seeing or listening to,” said Williams.

Mead said modestly that he wasn’t sure if he deserved the win. He won 150 dollars and decided to split his winning with the other three contestants.

“Money doesn’t mean all that much to me,” said Mead.

Mead has no plans of taking his singing talents and turning them into a career.

“I enjoy singing and it makes me feel good, but I could never do anything with it,” he said, “but it would be cool.”



Gaelen Lowers

Sgt. Jason Mead of Sierra Vista, Ariz. 582nd Field Artillery sang “Paint Me a Birmingham” by Tracy Lawrence at the Forward Operating Base Q-West’s version of American Idol.



## DES Spotlight

### Introducing Inspector Anthony “Tony” Fornicola

#### Special to the Frontline

Inspector Anthony “Tony” Fornicola arrived at Hunter Army Airfield just four months ago, but his presence has already been felt. His previous assignment was with the United States Air Force. He served 25 years in the fire service, starting as the handlineman and rising through the ranks to deputy fire chief.

Fornicola has held every level of responsibility in the fire service at one time or another. He has been the assistant fire chief of every section in the department over the last 15 years. He has held positions in California, Germany, Alaska and multiple temporary duties in the desert, Honduras, and the former Soviet Union. At Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, Fornicola started as Assistant Chief of Operations, transferred to Assistant Chief of Training, transferred again to Assistant Chief of Fire Prevention, and was then promoted to Deputy Fire Chief



Inspector Anthony Fornicola

all in the space of 5 years. He managed a department of 118 personnel, and filled in as the chief of the department on numerous occasions. He finished his Air Force career at Shaw Air Force Base, SC, as the assistant chief for operations where he retired from the military after 25 distinguished years of service.

Looking to stay in the job he loves, he accepted a position as fire prevention inspector at Hunter Army Airfield.

His main responsibilities are to ensure the safety of Hunter and minimize fire hazards throughout the post.

With a solid knowledge of Army regulations and National Fire Protection Association standards and guidelines, his objective is to lessen fire occurrences and point out sub-standard operations to assist Army personnel in meeting their objectives.

## History of Fire Prevention Week

#### Special to the Frontline

Fire Prevention Week is just around the corner and will be observed this year from Oct. 7-13. This year’s theme is “Practice your escape plan.”

As we prepare for the tours, games, and giveaways, it is important to remember the history, importance and meaning of all of the planned events during Fire Prevention Week.

Many may not even know the origin of this observance. Fire Prevention Week was established to remember the Great Chicago Fire that occurred in 1871. That tragic event killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, and destroyed more than 17,400 structures.

The fire began on Oct. 8, but continued into the next day which is when it did the majority of the damage. According to legend, the fire was started when Catherine O’Leary was milking her cow and the animal kicked over a lantern, setting the

O’Leary barn on fire, becoming an immense blaze.

Regardless of how the massive fire began, it quickly took its toll, burning more than 2,000 acres in only 27 hours.

The city of Chicago quickly rebuilt and within a couple of years, residents began celebrating the successful restoration by memorializing the anniversary of the fire with festivities. That fire changed the way that firefighters and public officials thought about fire safety.

On the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, the Fire Marshals Association of North America, now part of the National Fire Protection Association, decided to observe the anniversary not with festivities, but in a way that would keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention. In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation. Since 1922, the Sunday through

Saturday period in which Oct. 9 falls is when Fire Prevention Week has been observed. According to records, Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record.

The President of the United States has signed a proclamation declaring a national observance during that week every year since 1925.

For more than 70 years, the nonprofit NFPA has officially sponsored and selected the theme for the national commemoration of Fire Prevention Week, honoring the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire and using the events to increase awareness of the dangers of fire.

NFPA continues today to make National Fire Prevention Week a priority and counts on the participation and effort of tens of thousands of fire and safety professionals, emergency volunteers, and other individuals working to reduce the risk of fire and the toll that it takes on our society.

## Justice Served

**Private Nathaniel R. Corley**, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry., 4th Bridge Combat Team, convicted by special court-martial; two counts of Absent without leave , confinement for six months, reduced to Pvt. (E1), discharged with bad conduct discharge.

**Private Joseph L. Wheeler**, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 76 Field Artillery, 4th BCT, convicted by special court-martial; desertion, confinement for five months, forfeiture of \$867 pay per month for five months.

**Private Brandon S. Couch**, Co. F, 703d Bridge Support Battalion, 4th BCT, convicted by general court-martial; two counts of wrongful use of marijuana, two counts of wrongful use of cocaine, drunken operation of a vehicle; confinement for 18 months, discharged with a bad conduct discharge.

**Private Eric D. Mixon**, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 76 Field Artillery, 4th Brigade, convicted by General Court-Martial; two counts of absent without leave, willfully disobey a superior commissioned officer, willfully disobey a noncommissioned officer, two counts of wrongful use of marijuana, larceny of \$200, larceny of \$160, wrongful appropriation of a vehicle; reduced to pvt. (E1), confinement for 12 months, and a bad conduct discharge.

**Specialist William E. Jennings Jr.**, rear-detachment, 5th Battalion, 7 Cavalry, 1st BCT, convicted by general court-martial; desertion, failure to obey a lawful order from a commissioned officer; confinement for 15 months, reduced to pvt. (E1), and a bad conduct discharge.

**Private Michael O. Shauntee**, Battery B, 1-76 FA, 4th Brigade, convicted by general court-martial; failure to report, wrongful use of marijuana, assault consummated by battery, drunk and disorderly; confinement for four months and a bad conduct discharge.

**Specialist Christopher C. Douglas**, rear-detachment, 3rd Battalion, 69 Armor, 1st BCT, convicted by general court-martial; AWOL - terminated by apprehension; confinement for two months, reduced to pvt. (E1), and a bad conduct discharge.

**Private 1st Class Marc L. Listman**, Headquarter and Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 64 Armor, 4th Brigade Combat Team, convicted by special court-martial; two counts of AWOL, wrongful use of cocaine; reduced to pvt. (E1), confinement for eight months and a bad conduct discharge.

**Private 1st Class David W. Tanks Jr.**, Co. G., 703d Brigade Support Battalion, 4th BCT, convicted by general court-martial; three counts of failure to report, wrongful possession of marijuana, assault consummated by battery; reduced to pvt. (E1), confinement for 62 days, and a bad conduct discharge.

#### Magistrate Court Actions

Male, 34, was fined a total of \$500, 12 months probation, 40 hours community service, drug testing, and ordered to pay a special assessment of \$25 for disorderly conduct.

Male, 30, was fined \$250 and ordered to pay a special assessment of \$10 for speeding.

Female, 37, was fined \$250, six months probation, and ordered to pay a special assessment of \$25 for driving with a suspended license.

Male, 31, was fined \$400, six months probation, and ordered to pay a special assessment of \$35 for driving with a suspended license and speeding.

Female, 37, was fined \$250 for driving with a suspended license, and ordered to pay a special assessment of \$25.

Male 50, was fined \$250 for driving with a suspended license, and ordered to pay a Special Assessment of \$25.

Male, 37, was fined \$250 for driving with a suspended registration and ordered to pay a special assessment of \$25.

Female, 25, fined \$250 for speeding and ordered to pay a special assessment of \$10.

Male, 42, receive two days in confinement for driving with suspended license and ordered to pay a special assessment of \$25.

Male, 29, was fined \$1,000, 12 months probation, and 40 hours community service for speeding and ordered to pay a Special Assessment of \$10.

Male, 46, was fined \$300, 12 months probation and 40 hours community service for driving under the influence and ordered to pay a special assessment of \$25.

Female, 26, was fined \$500, 24 hours confinement, and 40 hours community service for DUI.

Female, 24, receive 12 months probation, drug/alcohol treatment, and GED ordered for DUI; and ordered to pay a special assessment of \$25.

## Legal Notices

Anyone having claims against, or who is indebted to the estate of **Spc. Christian M. Neff**, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact Capt. Tommie Andrews, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor, Fort Stewart, Ga., 31314 at 912-320-5259.



# 1-10 Field Artillery shifting operations, Hammer

Sgt. Natalie Rostek,  
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq** – Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment are leaving Camp Bucca after six months of detention operations and heading to FOB Hammer.

Since 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team came to Iraq in mid-March, the 1-10 FAR has been separated from the brigade and stationed in Southern Iraq. They were attached to the 16th Military Police Brigade at Camp Bucca.

The battalion is expected to make the transition to FOB Hammer in late September and assume control of the Nahrwan area of operation in the Ma'a'in Qada in mid-October, said Capt. Scott Lorenzen, of Des Moines, Iowa, battle captain, 1-10 FAR.

Soldiers living at FOB Hammer are readying accommodations for the arrival of their 1-10 FAR comrades.

Air conditioned living quarters and latrines are set up in what will be the unit's logistical support area. Engineers of the 557th Expeditionary Red Horse Squadron, currently attached to 3rd HBCT to aid in rebuilding and maintenance of the FOB, have already completed the battalion headquarters building. Early arrivals of 1-10 FAR are in the process of setting up work stations and offices.

Sgt. Roderick Thompson, of Selma, Ala., is new to the unit and said he is excited to have his battle buddies join

him at FOB Hammer. His daily tasks include ensuring the communication aspects of the headquarters building will be fully operational upon the unit's arrival.

"I'm still getting to know everyone on the team," Thompson said. "I'm getting to meet new people and with the arrival of the rest of 1-10 (FAR). I'll be able to get to know Soldiers from my own unit."

Lorenzen said the unit is executing the movement rapidly with few difficulties.

"There are a lot of moving pieces," he said. "Trying to keep track of all the moving pieces is probably the hardest part, but everything has been running pretty smoothly."

Upon arrival to their new area of operation, the unit must make the transition from military police work to conducting full-spectrum operations.

"I think we will do very well in the transition," Lorenzen said. "We have pushed our Soldiers back to Kuwait for retraining and it should be an easy transition."

First Sgt. Michael Patton, of Memphis, Tenn., Battery B, 1-10 FAR believes his Soldiers will have no problem getting back into field artillery missions.

"I don't think there are going to be any challenges making the change," he said. "My unit is going back to fire support missions. That's our job. Most Soldiers know their jobs already and they are glad to come back to doing

their job."

Lorenzen said working at Camp Bucca in the detention facility has given the battalion Soldiers an experience that will help them accomplish their mission in Nahrwan.

"We learned a lot about Iraqi culture," he said. "We spent so much time with the Iraqi people that we've picked up a lot of things that will help us for this next mission."

The Soldiers must also re-adjust to FOB life. Accommodations at FOB Hammer are very different than those at Camp Bucca. Soldiers will be going from a well-established base to one where 3rd HBCT is the first occupier.

"Bucca has been there for five years, so it's more established," Lorenzen said. "I think the transition will be harder for Soldiers who haven't been deployed to Iraq before now. For the rest of us, it's not going to be a big surprise. FOB Hammer is what I was expecting."

First Lt. Scott Dickson, of Midwestern, Kan., Battery B executive officer, said he believes the changes will be welcome.

"There are less people at Hammer," he said. "This means shorter lines, longer time on the phones and internet, and a faster laundry turnaround. Yeah, there is dust everywhere, but everyone understands that and it's not that bad."

The 3rd HBCT is assigned to 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Benning, Ga., and has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since March.



Sgt. Natalie Rostek  
**Staff Sgt. Dennis Brown, 1/10 FA Regiment, carries mail into the new battalion headquarters building.**

# New USACE CG visits old stomping ground for improvement

Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky  
2nd BCT, 3rd ID PAO

**ARAB JABOUR** – In order to get a better view of reconstructive efforts by brigades in their area of operations, the incoming commander of the Gulf Region Division of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) conducted several visits to various bases.

On Sept. 22, Brig. Gen Jeffrey Dorko and his staff visited with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division at Forward Operating Kalsu to gain better situational awareness of what the brigade was doing in Arab Jabour and Hawr Rajab.

"The main thing is to build relationships," Dorko said of his visit.

By meeting with senior brigade leaders, Dorko said he is better able to understand their goals and help formulate projects to help the brigades reach those targets.

Col. James Adams, 2nd BCT deputy commander, said the face to face meeting with Dorko was also important because it

puts a face on each party.

"It's always important to associate names with a face," he said, adding it helps the communication process. Getting on the same page in terms of communication is vital because both the brigade and USACE have the same goal of improving Iraq, Adams said.

The visit was also important because of the various types of environments in Iraq and the needs that accompany each.

"I've been to four or five brigades, and the difference in AOs is amazing," Dorko said. "What a difference a few miles makes."

To familiarize what the 2nd BCT is doing in it's area of responsibility, Maj. Daniel Canales, 2nd BCT civil affairs officer, briefed Dorko on the various projects underway to improve the quality of life for the residents of Arab Jabour and Hawr Rajab. Many of the projects will revitalize their agricultural-based economies.

Maj. Stephen Lutsky, 2nd BCT S3, plans and operations, briefed Dorko on the combat operations in the area that will

allow the projects Canales spoke of to take root.

"It's an interesting balance how the carpet of kinetic force (combat operations) rolls out the economics," Dorko said.

After the briefing, Dorko said he was very impressed with what is going on in the area and was glad to hear of the steps being taken by the 2nd BCT.

Knowing the steps will help Dorko when he takes command and assumes the responsibility of the Gulf Region Division of the USACE. Because the division is responsible for providing quality, responsive, full-spectrum engineering and logistical services to support the civil and military reconstruction in Iraq, knowing the specific requirements of an area will help Dorko allocate the correct contracts and monetary amounts.

Overall, Dorko said he was pleased with the progress in the area. He was also pleased to once again get a chance to interact with Dog-faced Soldiers of the 3rd Inf. Div.

Dorko was a former brigade engineer in the Raider Brigade, 1st Brigade, 3rd Inf Div. and commander of the 10th Engineer battalion, formerly attached to the 2nd Brigade.

# Proposed AG union could bring security, stability to Iraq

Staff Sgt. Tony M. Lindback  
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq** – While wheat prices are causing international frustration, there is a proposal for an agricultural union that could have Mada'in Qada, Iraq, providing enough grain for the entire Middle-East.

Holland, Ohio, native Lt. Col. Todd R. Ratliff, commander, Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, met with the agricultural representative for the Nahia Council, Ali Hussien Mahmoud, in Wahiya to discuss possibilities for an "AG" union in the area.

Ratliff said the union would be able to offer members lower-cost seed, fertilizer and equipment. Members would also be offered education that could teach them how to farm much larger areas, and how to yield the most harvest from their land.

A challenge to the program is resistance to change. Changing the way a person farms may not be as difficult as changing the way they do business.

Maj. James F. Carlisle, from West Palm

Beach, Fla, now a civil military officer with the BSTB, 3rd HBCT, said what makes the union difficult to maintain are the traditional ways of doing business here.

Carlisle said, "In theory, why would you join a farmer's union? You would join because it's cheaper. If I pay \$100 per month to be part of this farmer's union where there's a group of people it provides me buying power. In the States that works great. What happens in Iraq is everyone takes a profit so there's no ability to cut out the middleman."

If the farmers in the Qada can make the AG union work there is a potential for the wheat crops in the area to have an impact on the global economy, benefiting the whole country.

"I would like to get this up and running now, and come back 10 years from now and have it looking like Kansas – wheat fields as far as the eye can see," Ratliff said to Mahmoud.

"We would really like to see you be able to grow enough wheat for not just the Qada, but the whole Middle-East," Ratliff said. "We can show you how."

Ratliff and Mahmoud spoke through the

help of Pvt. Zack Mouaddeb, an interpreter with the BSTB. For nearly two hours they talked about the farmer's needs in the area, and how a union could provide better and quicker aid to farmers.

Mahmoud was receptive to the idea of the union. Mahmoud said he is very familiar with the people farming the land and would like to get them together to discuss the idea.

"I'm the son of a farmer. I'm from this area. I have had long-time relationships with all the farmers here.

"If the farmers could get help, especially from the American farmers with all their experience, it will help the economy and this country for sure," Mahmoud said.

Mahmoud said the best time he could remember for farmers in the area was 1975 to 1980 when they were getting help from Egypt in the way of three million workers. He said it would be significant for the people in the Qada to be able to produce record crops and sustain them on their own.

"Because of the war, and what the people of Iraq have endured, the farmers have sort of forgotten about their job," Mahmoud said. "If this union works, it would bring stability and

security. It would end all the wars (sectarian violence)."

Ending the sectarian violence is one of the main, underlying, goals of the union.

Carlisle said, "The greatest immediate benefit of the agricultural union is the resulting social networking that helps the Iraqi people overcome their sectarian rifts by encouraging large numbers of people to work together in order to earn a living."

"In Narhwan there's already an AG union that was set up during Operation Iraqi Freedom II," Carlisle said. "What makes that AG union work is that the union owns the land."

Though that union still requires help to make the union work, Carlisle said there has been a drop in the violence in Narhwan since the union's formation.

There are more meetings scheduled to show the farmers in the Qada more of the benefits of the union, and how to start and run one.

The BSTB is assigned to the 3rd HBCT, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Benning, Ga., has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since March, 2007.

# Humanitarian mission weakens insurgent hold on community



Courtesy Photo  
**A Soldier from B Co., 1/15 Inf. Regiment unloads blankets to a crowd of children.**

STAFF SGT. SEAN RILEY  
3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

**FOB HAMMER** — Fort Benning Soldiers handed out humanitarian aid packages Sept. 12 to help break the hold insurgents have had on a poor community in Salman Pak.

A local sheik, also a concerned citizen leader, has been working with Company B, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, to combat the insurgent stranglehold.

Capt. Walter Straube, Ferndale, Calif., a fire support officer for Company B, said the Sunni sheik has been very helpful and has used his connection with the people to unify their resolve.

Straube said residents have stood up a concerned citizens group to counter insurgents who have been targeting the poverty-stricken people of the region.

Insurgents have been extorting the populace by forcing them to give money, possessions or food as payment in exchange for utilities such as food, water and gas.

The Soldiers handed out bags containing rice, cooking oil and other necessities. Straube said he feels confident that

humanitarian missions like this one have helped.

On previous missions, Co. B Soldiers have distributed the humanitarian aid bags by hand, often while walking the neighborhoods.

"We've distributed bags before. Usually we go around the area and give out a few bags," Straube said. "We'll pass them out to people on the street, or we'll see a kid and give him a bag to take home with him."

Straube believes by helping residents, they will be less inclined to be pushed around by the insurgents and even less likely to be persuaded or bribed to assist insurgents.

"Instead of an insurgent offering to pay \$300 for someone to dig them a hole for an improvised explosive device," he said, "by us giving them humanitarian aid bags, they'll probably say no as they are less likely to need it."

"Simply put, it will break the bond with the insurgents. Once that bond is broken, it will enable us to help them even more."

Along with the humanitarian aid bags, Soldiers also distributed six generators, two 10,000-gallon gas tanks, and many blankets and mattresses in preparation for the coming winter.



# Ten Soldiers honored at Warrior's Walk

Pat Young  
Frontline Staff

An overcast morning threatened to disrupt the Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield tree dedication ceremony Sept. 20 at Warrior's Walk, as clouds held back for the people in attendance.

Despite the poor weather, hundreds of people gathered, along with Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, 3rd Infantry Division commanding general, and his wife Sarah, to pay tribute to 10 Marne Soldiers who died in support of Iraqi Freedom.

As the Families started to arrive, a mournful ballad began to play softly, and a gentle rain started to fall almost as tears, for the warriors who gave their lives for freedom.

Soon after the arrival, Kathleen Mills read a poem benefiting the occasion.

**"Honor  
On my honor, we will stand at the place  
where you rest and remember you.  
On my honor, we will pick up the torch of  
freedom and carry it for you.  
On my honor, you will not be a silent mem-  
ory.  
We will speak of you often so the world will  
know what you've done.  
On my honor, as you reach the gates of  
heaven you will hear the voices of a grateful  
nation rise up and we will, honor you."**

Lynch attended the ceremony to pay respects to the fallen heroes, visit with the Families of his fallen Soldiers, and share his thoughts with those in attendance.

Lynch spoke of each Soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice. He said their sacrifice would not be forgotten. He said young and old, Soldier and civilian alike would walk down Warrior's Walk, and would pause and reflect on the names and the fallen heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom. But he also understood the grief shared by those in attendance, and hoped they could find comfort.

"May God bless our deployed Soldiers. May God Bless America and may God grant a special blessing upon the Family members of our fallen Comrades."

## The fallen heroes

Sgt. William R. Howdeshell, Troop A, 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade, was from Springfield IL and was a Soldier who knew the meaning of duty and selfless-service.. He was 26 when he aced his Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery exam, and enlisted in the United States Navy. He transferred to the Army in 2005.

He loved his wife Kimberly and the Army. He loved serving in the Army and believed in the mission.

In his free time, he enjoyed building and playing on computers. Described as quiet until you got to know him by his friends, he was a master of trivia, as well, having knowledge on many different topics. He was 37 years old and had 10 years of active military service when he made the ultimate sacrifice.

Specialist Jaime Rodriguez Junior, Troop A, 5/7 Cav, 1st BCT was from Oxnard, Ca. He embraced respect and personal courage. He enlisted in the Army as a cavalry scout in November 2005, completed training at Fort

Knox in July 2006 and then came to Fort Stewart where he began to prepare for deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom Five. He was determined and knew how to lead.

He honed skills and values in the Army that were established as an athlete on Carpinteria High School's track and cross-country teams. Although he wasn't the star of either team, he kept trying. In his senior year, he finished sixth in the 400-meter race at a track championship. His coaches remember him because of his determination and leadership, and for his desire to give his all, and to help others do the same. He came a long way from his childhood when he was nicknamed "Pollito," "little chicken," because of the yellow pajamas his mother dressed him in when he was three-months-old. He was 19 years old with one year eight months active military service when he died, determined to help others.

Specialist Charles E. Bilbrey Junior, Troop SA, 5/7 Cav., from Owego, New York was a Soldier who understood the meaning of selfless-service and personal courage. He loved to read, devouring topics of interest to him – not stopping until he could find all he could find on it.

He memorized the Presidents of the United States and all of the Mercury, Apollo, and Gemini missions by the fourth grade. His grandfather took him to West Point at the age of 10, and from then on, he wanted to be a Soldier. He enlisted in the Army a year before he graduated from high school.

After Advanced Individual Training, He joined the 5/7 Cav, and found his niche. He was excited to be a scout. He expressed his eagerness to re-enlist and fulfill his dream to become an Army Ranger.

As a cavalry scout, he was a Soldier's Soldier, who had no fear, and volunteered for risky missions. In Iraq, he would call his Family and ask them to send candy so he could give it to children he would meet on patrol.

He had a sense of humor and a big heart. His sister, Brianne, remembers how he taught their brother Patrick how to count using Yugioh game cards. He was 21 years old and had two years of selfless military service.

Staff Sergeant William D. Scates, B Co., 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, from Oklahoma City, OK was a noncommissioned officer who always put the mission first.

He began his Army career as an infantryman in the Oklahoma Army National Guard and after several years entered active duty and was assigned to 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment.

He was a proven combat veteran who deployed as a gunner in Operation Iraqi Freedom One, as a team leader in Operation Iraqi Freedom Three, and as a squad leader in Operation Iraqi Freedom Five.

His comrades-in-arms remember his valor, mission first attitude, and his skill as a Soldier trainer. He was a protective brother, looking out for his two sisters. That nature carried over into his career where he served to protect the nation, while caring for his wife, Rachel, and daughters, Jade and Kendra. He was 31 years old and had nine years, and seven months of active military service when he made the ultimate sacrifice.

Sergeant Andrew W. Lancaster, B Co., 1/30th Inf., 2nd BCT from Freeport, IL, was a Soldier who embraced duty and loyalty. He enlisted in the Army as an infantryman in October 2003 and was assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade when he completed basic and advanced training. After he was assigned to 1/30th it became apparent he was an outstanding leader.

He was responsible, and led his Soldiers through several training events to prepare for their upcoming deployment. He wasn't concerned about going to Iraq because he knew he had a job to do.

His sense of responsibility developed in his childhood. He was an all-around good child, one who never got into trouble. He was friendly and happy. He played golf with his grandfather, and football and basketball in high school.

He liked to fish and spend time with his dog Sam. In December 2004, he married his life, Tabbatha, and they planned to start a family after his time in the Army. He was 23 years old and had three years, nine months of active military service.

Sergeant Scott L. Kirkpatrick, B Co., 1/30th Inf., was from Washington, D.C., and was a Soldier who understood the meaning of loyalty and duty. He enlisted in the Army as an infantryman in October 2003. After basic and advanced training, he was assigned to the 1/30th where he deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom Three, and deployed as a team leader in Operation Iraqi Freedom Five.

His comrades-in-arms will always remember him because he was an outstanding leader and fellow Soldier. He joined the Army after the tragic events of 9-11, feeling a need to answer the call to duty and serve the nation.

He was a pleasant young man who never had a negative word according to those who knew him. He was an actor and a poet, performing onstage and reading poetry at competitions. He also had a great sense-of-humor, but he had his serious moments. Thoughtful and introspective, he analyzed the world around him. He was 26 years old and had three years and nine months of active military service.

Specialist Justin O. Penrod, B Co., 1/30th Inf., was from Danville, IL. He was an example of selfless-service and duty. He enlisted in the Army as an infantryman in the Illinois National Guard in August 2000. He deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom One, and shortly after decided to continue his military career, reenlisting for active duty in April 2007.

His fellow Soldiers remember his positive attitude and willingness to care for his comrades-in-arms. That positive attitude and helpful nature developed from a young age. He always thought of others first and gave freely of himself, wanting nothing in return.

He was an active member of his church, and enjoyed giving back to his community. A graduate of Lincoln's Challenge Academy, he went back to work at the academy as an instructor. He mentored and molded troubled young people at the academy, and helped them to become upstanding citizens. In his free time, he rooted for the Chicago Cubs and enjoyed watching NASCAR. He was

24 years old and had six years, 11 months of active military service.

Specialist William L. Edwards, B Co., 1/30th Inf., 2nd BCT, from Houston, Tx., was a Soldier who held duty and honor dear. He started his military career as a cadet in the Navy ROTC program at Texas A&M, but left before he graduated to join the Army as an infantryman in February 2006. After basic and advanced training he was assigned to 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment.

His comrades-in-arms remember him as an outstanding Soldier, a solid member of the platoon, and an excellent driver for the B23 crew. His commitment to duty was a part of his life early on. An Eagle Scout, his mother said William always had a calling for the military.

He planed on continuing his military career after the war, with hopes of returning to Texas A&M, earning a degree and commission as an officer in the military. He was 23 years old, and had one year and five months of active military service.

Specialist Alun R. Howells, E Co., 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2nd BCT, was from Riteln, Germany. He was a Soldier who knew the meaning of duty and selfless-service. He joined the Army in January 2006 at Fort Leonard Wood. In May 2006, after completing his training, was assigned to 1st Battalion, 64th Armored Regiment. The military life was not new to him.

He was born into a military Family. In a short period of time, he saw much of the world, spending time in Germany, Brunei, Hong Kong, and the United Kingdom. When his family retired from the military, his home became Gunnison, Colorado.

He loved the outdoors there, enjoying fishing, climbing, hiking, mountain biking, skiing and snow boarding. In school, teachers praised his intellect and his leadership skills. He was 20 years old and had one year and six months of active military service.

First Lieutenant Jonathan W. Edds, HHC, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment was from Pigeon, Michigan. He was a leader of Soldiers who embraced honor and integrity. He attended West Point and received his commission in May 2005, and was later assigned to 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment at Fort Benning.

In March 2007, he deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom Five and was a great leader. He made every member of his team realize they were special and vital to the whole unit. He an effective team where Soldiers not only worked together, they spent their free time together, too. He led by example and when it was time to do maintenance on the tanks, he would have his coveralls on, ready to get dirty. He was friendly, intelligent, competent, tough, humorous and compassionate.

He was also thoughtful. In an email to a friend after the loss of Soldiers in his company, he wrote, "the important thing for our Soldiers is that they understand that even though loss hurts, the men who were lost would expect them to continue on and fight not for them, but for one another." He was 24 years old and had two years of active military service.



# Vanguard Dining Facility opens its doors

**Sgt. 1st Class Tami Hillis**  
*4th BCT Public Affairs*

The Vanguard Dining Facility on 6th Street officially opened its doors Sept. 17 and can serve up to 900 people per meal.

“So far we’ve been accommodating an average of 610 people per meal,” said Sgt. 1st Class Lena Williams, Vanguard Dining Facility manager.

Now that the Vanguard Dining Facility is open some of the other dining facilities on post will start closing for renovations, said Williams. On the day the Vanguard Dining Facility opened Building 642 closed.

“All the employees from Building 642 transferred to the Vanguard DFAC,” said Williams. “One day they were working there, and the next day they were working here.”

Dining facility hours: breakfast is from 6:30-9 a.m. during the week and 8-9:30 a.m. on the weekends and holidays, lunch is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and dinner is from 5-6:30 p.m. The Vanguard Dining Facility and Marne Dining Facility will rotate weekends at being open. There is a DFAC shuttle service that stops at the barracks and travels to and from the DFAC.

The DFAC offers full meals, salad and fruit bar, and specialty bars, to include a taco and potato bar on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In the future Williams said they plan to offer other specialty bars and other unique food services.

“We want to have something for everyone,” said Williams. “If there is something specific you want, please fill out the comment cards.”

“From the Vanguard perspective we are just grateful to have this facility open and servicing the Soldiers of the brigade prior to our deployment,” said Maj. Kimberly Peeples, 4th Brigade Combat Team engineer. “We’re grateful for all the hard work and effort it took to make it happen.”

Williams said the location of the Vanguard DFAC is convenient for 4th BCT Soldiers due to the barracks, motor pools, and companies being in close proximity.

“It’s a really good feeling to be involved in setting the DFAC up,” said Williams, who has been in food service for 19 years. “I’ve had great leadership over the years and now it’s time for me to give back. I love food service and I truly do this from the heart.”

Although the dining facility is up and running, Williams said there are still some things that aren’t completely set up, to include purchasing of additional equipment.

“My commitment to the brigade is ensuring the building is completely ready to go by the time the brigade comes back home from the deployment,” said Williams.

Participating in the Vanguard Dining Facility Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Sept. 17 were Paul Andreshak, deputy garrison commander, Col. Thomas James, 4th BCT commander, Command Sgt. Maj.



Sgt. 1st Class Tami Hillis

*(Right) Pvt. Kyle Pennington, 3/7 Cav., verifies a Soldier’s Identification card during the Vanguard Dining Facility Grand Opening Sept. 17.*

Louis Torres, 4th BCT command sergeant major, Pfc. Solomon Ji, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 76th Field Artillery, and Pfc. Paul Sin, Company E, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment.



## Recognizing outstanding Soldier performance

*Sgt. Timothy Murray, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, receives a coin from Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, 3rd Infantry Division Commander, Sept. 20 at Moon Theater on post. Six Soldiers from 4th BCT were recognized for their outstanding work in training and preparing their units for their upcoming deployment to Iraq next month.*

# Hunter Airfield, no Sleepy Hollow during deployment

**Nancy Gould**  
*Hunter Public Affairs*

Business at Hunter Army Airfield is anything but slow—even with the 3rd Infantry Division deployed.

In fact, staff members who work in the Airfield Division’s three branches— Airfield Division Air Traffic Control; Airfield Dispatch and Transient Alert Services at the Truscott Air Terminal— are logging lots of weekend hours to support Department of Defense customers, many of them Hunter tenant units, who conduct training missions and other airfield activities, according to Rick Mansford, airfield operation manager.

“We know that we manage a valuable asset for DoD customers,” said Mansford, referring to Hunter Army Airfield’s 11,375-foot runway that is capable of landing any type aircraft and 235 acres of parking apron.

Both weekend and weekday customers include Marines, Reservists, Coast Guardsmen, Airmen, and Special Operations Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 75th Regiment; 3rd Battalion, 160th Regiment; and 224 Military Intelligence Battalion, along with other military service units. Mansford said that support for those missions require many man hours from his 24-member air division staff.

The airfield dispatch staff has initial contact with pilots who request permission to use the runway. The pilots must request a Prior Permission Required-mission before arriv-

ing at the airfield, according to Deidra Williams, an aircraft dispatcher in Airfield Operations who enters the information in a data base so it’s available to air traffic controllers who work in the airfield tower. Williams also receives requests for Civil Airfield Landing Permits or flight plans from civilians, contractors and retired military personnel who request use of the airfield.

Jose Almodovar, air traffic control facility chief, said his 16 air traffic controllers also put in long hours supporting Hunter Army Airfield customers. Normally, the airfield control tower is closed weekends but Mondays through Fridays the airfield is available on a 24-hour basis to support rotary wing aircraft for night training. The tower also opens to support all deployment and re-deployment flights, many which occur on weekends and holidays.

Flight plans received by Airfield Dispatch are put into an automated information system, then passed to air traffic control, which requests airspace clearance from Savannah approach. After take off, control of the aircraft is handed over to Savannah Approach for assistance as the aircraft proceeds to its destination. Air Traffic Controllers provide guidance and support to pilots and aircrews arriving or departing the airfield. “We are their eyes,” said Almodovar, speaking of the assistance his staff provides pilots, especially on foggy days. “We tell them how and where to turn, we provide taxi instructions to the parking areas, and we separate them from other aircraft on the tarmac.

Another airfield service crucial to arriving and departing aircraft is the airfield transient alert service. Kerry Schultz, transient alert leader, supervises ground support at the air terminal. His staff loads and unloads cargo containers and rolling stock that can include Blackhawks, Apaches, Chinooks and other aircraft not owned by the 3rd Inf. Div. The staff supplies ground power units, maintenance stands, and mans fire extinguishers during aircraft fueling or starting.

“The most challenging part of my job is when multiple aircraft arrive at the same time,” said Schultz and noted a good example was the multiple units arriving or departing during brigade level rotations from and to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. “In this job you have to react to the Army’s schedule and that’s always challenging.”

Mansford said challenges come with any job in airfield division operations. When aircraft are delayed or arrive at the airfield early, staff has to adjust their report times forward or backward, up to several hours. They often remain in an informal “stand by” status during much of their off time.

Mansford said there are many other challenges that come with the autonomous operation of the airfield and the 163 aircraft that are based there. As manger, it’s Mansford’s responsibility to brief pilots, enforce the local fly neighborly program and update flight regulations and guidelines. He is quick to acknowledge all the efforts of his staff.



Courtesy Photo

*The A-10 is the first Air Force aircraft specially designed for close air support of ground forces. It is a simple, effective and survivable twin-engine jet aircraft that can be used against all ground targets.*



# Marne Soldiers, Iraqi National Police take on insurgents during Operation Blore Heath III



Courtesy Photo

*Pfc. Henry Krigbuam, from 3rd platoon, A Co., 1/15 Inf., provides security outside of a house during a Operation Blore Heath III.*

**Staff Sgt. Sean Riley**  
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq** – The 1st Iraqi National Police Brigade cleared a road connecting al-Bawi and Stiyah during a combined effort with 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, resulting in the killing of six insurgents Sept. 21.

Iraqi National Police, in conjunction with Company A, 1-15 Inf. Regt., conducted the mission to make the route safer.

The mission started with the 1st Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st NP Brigade, linking up with the 3rd platoon of Co. A for the mission.

The 3rd Battalion NPs were engaged by small-arms and machine-gun fire. One NP was wounded during the exchange. As the NPs maneuvered on the insurgents, 3rd platoon, Co. A, moved to assist and cleared six buildings from where the fire was originating.

The NPs discovered an improvised explosive device while clearing the area. A quick reaction force

and explosive ordnance disposal personnel from Combat Outpost Cahill moved to the bomb site, and destroyed the IED.

While EOD and the 3rd Battalion NPs were completing the task of destroying the IED, 3rd platoon, Co. A, came under small-arms fire from another house. Bradley Fighting Vehicles moved to support the infantry platoon's repositioning of Soldiers in the line of fire with 25mm cannon and machine-gun fire.

Once the enemy fire ceased, AH-64 Apache attack helicopters, already on site in support of the mission, were called to the scene and engaged the enemy position with 30mm cannon fire and Hellfire missiles.

A flight of U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons dropped a 500-pound bomb onto the house, killing six insurgents inside.

The 1-15 Inf. Regt. is assigned to the 3rd HBCT, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Benning, Ga., and has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since March 2007.

## Support elements help to build PB Hawkes

**Sgt. Jason Stadel**  
2nd BCT, 3rd ID PAO

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU** –When it's time to build a patrol base from the ground up; it's time for support battalions to shine. Patrol Base Hawkes is the latest base in Arab Jabour to come to life. The patrol base is being occupied by Soldiers from 1st Battalion 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

Although the base will be used for missions by 1-30th Inf. Soldiers, it would not have been possible without 26th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., 952nd Engineer Company, 92nd Engineer Battalion, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, Company F 26th BSB (operationally attached to 1-30th Inf. Regiment) and sections from the brigade staff providing the planning, support, logistics and personnel to build the base.

Capt. Robert Kauffman, 2nd BCT infrastructure team, planned the building of PB Hawkes. "The building of Hawkes is going

remarkably well," Kauffman said. "The (perimeter) walls were up in about four days."

This is the third patrol base built by 2nd BCT since deploying in May. Kauffman said the lessons learned from building the previous two patrol bases have helped in building PB Hawkes. "We came in with a lot better idea of what to do," Kauffman said. "We're getting the patrol base drill down."

The 26th BSB loaded military-owned demountable containers (MILVAN) at Forward Operating Base Kalsu with concertina wire, fence posts, sand-filled barriers, water and other supplies. The MILVANs were sling loaded by CH-47 Chinook helicopters at FOB Kalsu and carried to PB Hawkes. There were more than a dozen sling-load missions in which supplies were carried to the new patrol base.

"Anything they needed, we loaded and shipped it to Hawkes," Maj. Paul Stuck, 26th BSB support operations officer in charge, said.

Kauffman lauded the efforts of 26th BSB. "They've worked really hard to air lift

almost an entire patrol base into position," said Kauffman.

Food, water, gravel, air conditioners and other relevant life support supplies that can be found at FOB Falcon are driven to PB Hawkes via combat logistics patrol by Company F 26th BSB.

Company A 26th BSB led the way in supplying Hawkes, but they had help from every company in the battalion. "It really was a battalion effort," Struck said. "When we didn't have enough people from Alpha we got help from the other companies."

Work supplying PB Hawkes began in early September. Loading MILVANs and packing supplies made for long days for the 'Challenger' Soldiers of the 26th BSB. "(The Soldiers) worked pretty hard," Capt. Matthew Wojciehowski, 26th BSB logistics and supply officer (S-4), said. "Some days they put in about 20 hours."

The work for the 26th BSB Soldiers was a change of pace said one noncommissioned officer that was part of the sling load team. "You don't really get much of an opportunity to stand on a MILVAN and hook it up to

a Chinook hovering over head," said Staff Sgt. Joshua Gilson, a member of the 26th BSB sling-load team.

It is a challenge hooking up the MILVANs to the Chinooks. A four-man team stands on the MILVAN and hooks the containers to straps that hang from the helicopter. The Soldiers fight winds of hurricane force to complete their task.

The wind generated from the helicopter's rotors that are more than strong enough to push the Soldiers off the top of the container. It is at this stage that teamwork is fundamental to mission accomplishment said Struck. The Soldiers emplacing the sling on the Chinooks load the hooks can focus on the the mission because he or she is being stabilized physically by a battle buddy. It only works if the two of them work together.

"It's a different kind of experience," Gilson said.

With PB Hawkes near completion 1-30th Inf. will be a more mobile force on the battle field in providing more safety and security to the people of Arab Jabour.



# Iraqis, Coalition troops open refurbished school

**Sgt. Natalie Rostek**  
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq** – City council members and school leaders hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to signify the re-opening of a renovated school in Saba Nissan Sept. 22.

Soldiers and leaders of 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, and 489th Civil Affairs Battalion, who facilitated the rebuilding of the school, attended the ceremony. Although Coalition Forces supported the project by funding and mentoring, Iraqi contractors and council members headed the project.

Juma'h Mawat Badday, the school principal, cut the red ribbon as Capt. Jared Albright, of Lancaster, Pa., commander, Troop B, 3-1 Cav. Regt., and Hassan Maheed Hamza, a member of the city council, stood by in support of the event.

"When the school year begins, this school will be one of many that will educate and prepare the future leaders of

both your community and Iraq," Albright said.

According to 2nd Lt. Richard Perry, of Durham, N.C., Troop B fire support officer, the project to rebuild the school has been in progress for about four months.

The entire structure was restructured, he said. The broken walls were fixed, new classrooms were set up and a new playground was constructed.

After the ceremony, Lt. Col. John Kolasheski, of Loudon, Tenn., commander, 3-1 Cav. Regt., toured the new school. At the same time, Soldiers from 3-1 Cav. Regt. and 489th Civil Affairs Battalion handed out book bags filled with school supplies to teachers and children.

"Today we not only celebrate the opening of this school, but we also celebrate the Iraqi government's commitment to building a strong country that is able to meet the needs of its citizens," Albright said. "This new school is a prime example of what can happen when the Iraqi government and Coalition Forces work together."



Sgt. Natalie Rostek

*Juma'h Mawat Badday, principal of the Saba Nissan School, along with Hassan Maheed Hamza, a member of the city council, and Capt. Jared Albright, commander, Troop B, 3/1 Cav., cut the ribbon during a ceremony Sept. 22 to open the school.*

## Iraqi Police, Soldiers patrol eastern area of Ramadi

**Spc. Ricardo Branch**  
1st BCT Public Affairs

**Combat Outpost Warrior, Iraq** – A year ago the area to the east of Ramadi was a haven for insurgents to attack the city.

These days much has changed in the surrounding rural lands of the east.

Today, the once violent lands of the east are patrolled and guarded by the Abu-Bali Iraqi Police and Soldiers from Company A, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor.

Their latest mission was a joint operation, which gathered intelligence and pushed insurgents further from the city of Ramadi and its outlying towns.

"Today, we did a routine clearance missions east of Ramadi," said 1st Lt. Cory Sharbo, a platoon leader with Co. A, 3-69 Armor. "Normally we work alongside the Iraqi Police but today, today we're only here to supervise."

Sharbo, 25, from Pittsburgh, Pa., said that the area they patrol is much different that what people at home would normally expect when they think of Iraq.

"Everyone always thinks that it's all desert," Sharbo said. "Lots of the Soldiers look at this area we're in with an almost Vietnam style terrain with, canals, tall grass and sweltering heat."

During the operation, Iraqi Policemen scoured the surrounding countryside of Abu Waitha and began walking through neighborhoods greeting locals, and asking if they needed any assistance. While they were meeting the locals, the Policemen asked about terrorist activity in the area.

Sharbo said the mission was important because it served as a show of force for the Iraqi Police.

"Since we came into this area the Iraqi Police have shown lots of improvement," he said. "They are more organized, able to do handle the different tasks required of a policeman and now handle detainees real well – they are running the show here."

Although there is often much work associated with Iraqi Police, the Soldiers said they don't have much left to do for the IPs to be self-sufficient.

"Part of our duty here outside of combat operations are to make sure the IPs are getting paid, they are receiving fuel, and they are receiving equipment," Sharbo said. "Right now we're helping supply them but it's not a permanent thing; we are still setting them up to sustain themselves and when we leave we're going to make sure they can support themselves."

Although the mission failed to turn up any insurgents, the Iraqi policemen and coalition forces consider their work

that evening a success.

"The mission today helped a lot to cement the local support for the police and coalition force efforts here," Sharbo said. "The insurgents closed off all the business here and people were prisoners in their own homes. Now people can come and go as they please."

For the Soldiers working in Abu Bali, serving with the Iraqi Security Forces and seeing the effects of their combined efforts on the people is a good feeling.

"Most of the success here is from the Iraqi Police," said Spc. Dustin Dunckel, an infantryman with Co. A, 3-69 Armor. "They are from this area, and know the people and the land. By us building up a strong police force here we've established a confidence among the IPs and the people."

The missions the troops conduct with the Iraqi Security Forces are a far cry from the combat the troops experienced less than six months ago.

"When we first got here there were lots of improvised explosive devices, sniper and mortar fire here," said the 26-year-old, Lansing, Mich. native.

Dunckel added, "Working with the Iraqi Security Forces and patrolling the area has made this place safer now. The groups here are proud and stern Iraqis who I can trust to do their job well."